Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you vote in last week's election for a CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress?

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to cast your vote.

45 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Senate Goal

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin said Wednesday she might consider serving in the Senate.

NATION...Page 20

Oscar Buzz

Angelina Jolie's performance in "Changeling" has placed her within a hive of Oscar buzz.

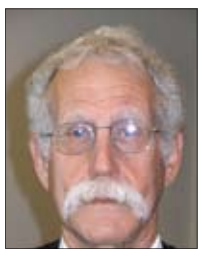
LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

"Without preliminary injunctive relief, the Commonwealth will suffer devastating and irreparable effects to its economy and the well-being of its people."

Fitial and govt found liable in Fund lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo yesterday found the CNMI government and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial liable in the lawsuit filed by the Retirement Fund over the government's failure to remit the re-


Govendo

See FITIAL on Page 4

Retailers see glum holiday season

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Despite lower fuel surcharges and electric power rates, some local retailers say they are bracing for dismal sales this holiday season.

Francisco "Kitz" Barja, general manager of Micronesian Brokers Inc., said the season looks bleak because consum-

See RETAILERS on Page 4

FITIAL LAWYERS FILE FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

US court asked to suspend labor provisions of federalization law

By AGNES E. DONATO
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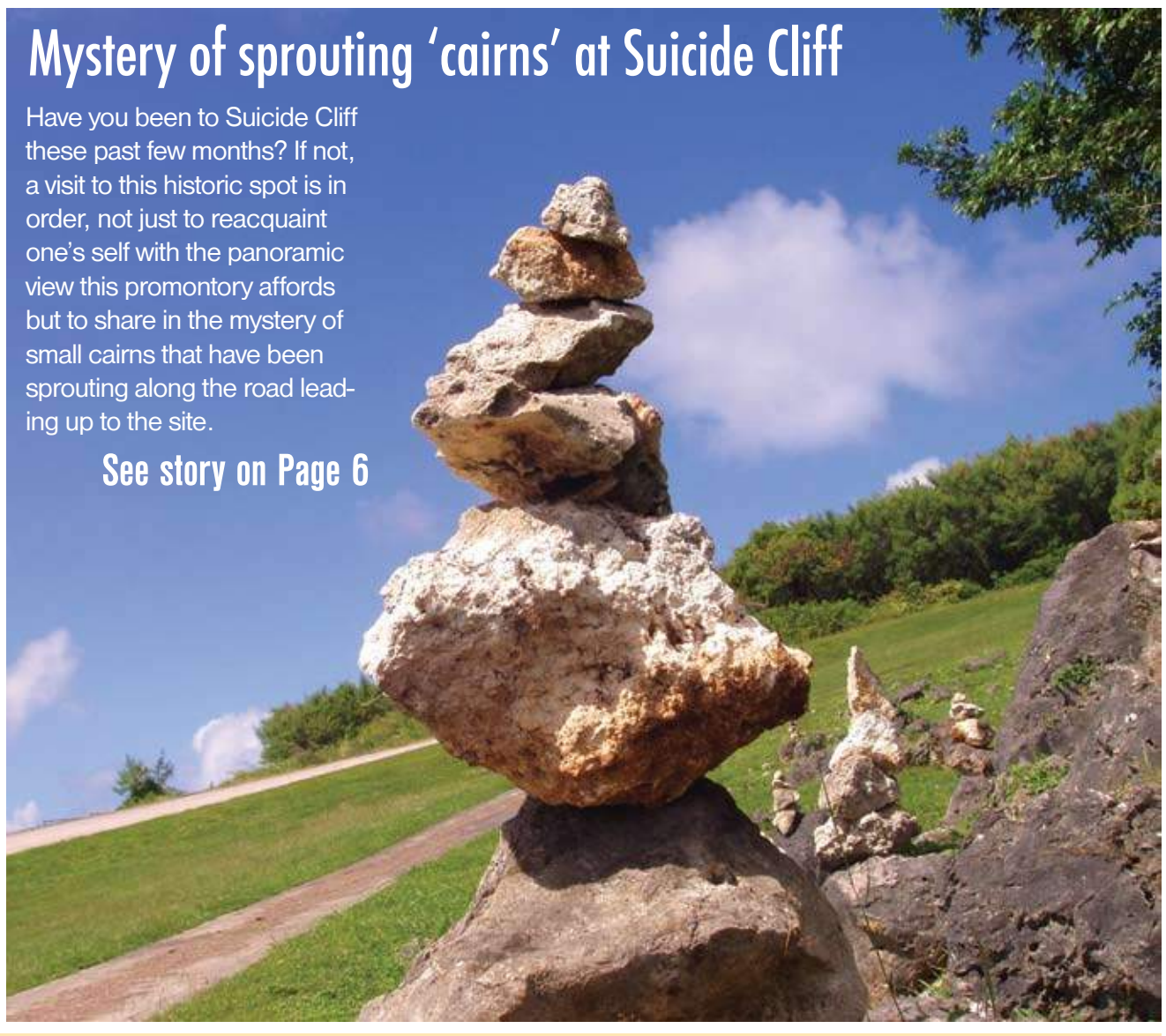
REPORTER

The Fitial administration has asked a court to stop the U.S. government from applying the labor provisions of the new Northern Marianas immigration act, saying the new law will cause immediate and lasting damage to the Commonwealth.

Fitial

The U.S.-based law firm Jenner & Block and Howard Willens, special legal counsel to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, filed the motion for preliminary injunction on behalf of the CNMI government in the U.S. District Court

See US COURT on Page 4


Mystery of sprouting 'cairns' at Suicide Cliff
Have you been to Suicide Cliff these past few months? If not, a visit to this historic spot is in order, not just to reacquaint one's self with the panoramic view this promontory affords but to share in the mystery of small cairns that have been sprouting along the road leading up to the site.
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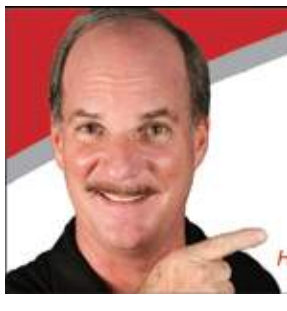
Visitor arrivals make a strong start to fiscal year. **PAGE 2**
'Fee increase intended to fund Labor's Web site' **PAGE 3**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Local

Arrivals make a strong start to fiscal year

October visitor arrivals show 8.7 percent growth

Fiscal year 2009 kicked off with strong growth in visitor arrivals to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Arrivals for the month of October 2008 posted an 8.7 percent increase compared to the same period the previous year. Total visitor arrivals to the CNMI reached 29,611, which is a strong improvement over October 2008 when 27,238 visitors entered the CNMI.

The islands' biggest market, Japan, registered a double-digit increase of 29 percent compared to October 2007. Arrivals from Japan reached 16,193 visitors in October 2008—3,680 more visitors than the same month in 2007. Increased flight availability contributed to the growth from this market as did successful promotions. In October 2007, there were only two daily flights from Japan to the CNMI. Now, four flights arrive daily in the CNMI from this market. These flights include two from Narita and one each from Osaka and Nagoya. These additional flights have increased total seat inventory from 480 to 844 per week.

Arrivals from Korea also showed growth in October 2008. Records show that 8,715 Korean visitors arrived last month, 8 percent more than in the same month in 2007. Throughout the month of October, the number of flights remained the same compared to October 2007 until Oct. 26 when Asiana Airlines added three more daytime flights from Seoul each week. The addition of these flights by Asiana brings the total to 18 weekly.

Visitor arrivals from Russia continued the momentum of exceptional performance, topping growth in all markets. In October 2008, visitor arrivals brought in 388 visitors, an additional 192 visitors or 102 percent growth for the month compared to October 2007. Although small in numbers, this market contributes upscale visitors who stay for long periods and is a vital component of the CNMI's tourism industry. The islands will be welcoming a total of three charter flights from Russia in December 2008 and January 2009 with an estimated 450 additional visitors from Vladivostok and Khabarovsk in eastern Russia.

Some 1,970 fewer visitors arrived from China last month compared to October 2007. Arrivals were negatively affected by the decline in number of charter service from China. In October 2007, there were 18 flights versus seven flights in October 2008. The good news is that newly scheduled charter flights by Shanghai Airlines and the resumption of the Guangzhou charter flights later this month provide the indication for a resurgence from this important market.

Perry Tenorio, managing director of MVA, expressed guarded optimism over this development, saying the increase comes against the backdrop of global factors that could impact travel.

"The good news that arrival numbers are on the increase must be tempered with the realization that negative world market adjustments and continued high costs associated with air travel both must be overcome to see continued growth," Tenorio said.

He reminded everyone to welcome all guests to Saipan, Tinian and Rota like they were family. ***(MVA)***

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'Fee increase intended to fund Labor's Web site'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor yesterday sought to justify the recent increase in the fee for foreign worker applications, saying it is needed to fund the department's new interactive Web site.

Cinta M. Kaipat, deputy secretary for the Labor Department, also said the $50 fee increase should not come as a surprise because it was published in the Commonwealth Register in September and the business sector was informed about it and even asked to comment on it.

The $50 increase only applies to business employers. They will now have to pay $300 for every approved contract. The $25 deportation fee will remain the same. Non-business employers, such as those who have one or two household employees, will not be affected by the increase.

The fee increase is expected to bring in $750,000 a year for the Labor Department. This is based on Labor director Barry Hirshbein's estimate of 15,000 foreign workers currently employed in the local private sector.

The Labor Department says it spent about $350,000 on the equipment and software for its new automated system for processing applications. This excludes maintenance costs.

"Keep in mind also that we have a steadily decreasing [alien] workforce. There are fewer and fewer applications being submitted for processing. So the department's total revenue may not be same as in previous years," Hirshbein said.

Undercharged

Kaipat, in a press conference yesterday, took the blame for the lack of coordination within the Labor Department, which resulted in the sudden implementation of the new fee on Wednesday afternoon.

"Could we have done a better job? Absolutely. But we are doing our best here. And we will improve as we continue," she said.

The fee increase was originally set for implementation on Saturday, Nov. 1, but the department decided to postpone it to Nov. 10 because of timing issues. When Nov. 10 came, however, Labor personnel continued to charge the old fee due to the lack of clear instruction from management. The mistake was discovered on Wednesday, and the new fee was immediately applied. As a result, employers who filed applications in the afternoon paid $50 more than those who did in the morning.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial directed the Labor Department to go after those employers who were undercharged for applications they filed on Monday and Wednesday morning. "I want them to pay the right amount," the governor said.

Cost of efficiency

In a press statement, Kaipat defended the fee increase, saying employers must help pay for the department's new efficient processing system.

"We funded and proved out the new Web site first, and then we changed the fee structure so we could continue operating it. We provided a much faster and more efficient alternative to job vacancy announcements. After everyone was satisfied with the way that the Web site worked, we proposed a fee increase to pay for it. Under this fee structure, the employers who benefit from the less expensive Web site alternative are the ones who contribute to pay for its upkeep," she said.

She also said the Labor Department continues to upgrade the software for processing applications, which first rolled out in February 2008, and this costs money.

"We went from an enormous backlog in processing to a situation today in which we are virtually current on a day-to-day basis. The cost of the new processing system is also rolled into the application fee," she said.

Further, she said, the Labor Department spent money on employment services by hiring new personnel to assist local citizens find jobs. "This is a critical function in the current difficult economic circumstances. The Labor Department cannot draw on Commonwealth resources anymore. We have to fund our operations through fees," she added.

Public notice

Kaipat maintained that the public was given enough notice before the fee increase was applied. The new fee was published in the Commonwealth Register on Sept. 25, 2008 for comment. Copies were provided to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and other business organizations for their comment, she said.

She added that the department responded to all comments submitted during the publication process. The regulations were available for 30 days in draft form, and then the department published its intent to adopt the regulations in final form. The notice specified that the regulations would become final and go into effect on Nov. 1, 2008, she said.

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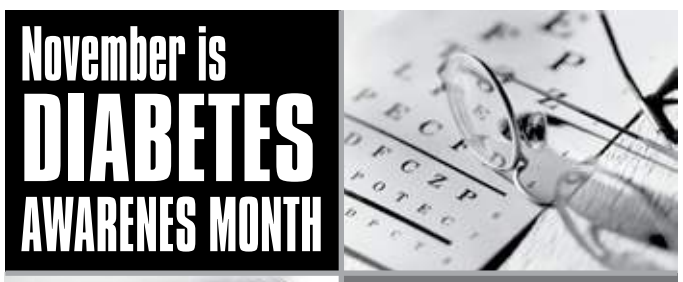
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Unidentified woman helps save man from drowning

An unidentified woman helped save the life of a man who nearly drowned at a beach near Chalan Kanoa Beach Club Sunday afternoon.

The female Good Samaritan resuscitated Renato Alcantara, a Filipino, until he regained consciousness.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said preliminary investigation showed that the 46-year-old Alcantara was swimming with two companions.

Later, the two friends noticed Alcantara floating in the water face down.

The two immediately brought the victim to shore, where the unidentified woman assisted them by administering CPR on him.

Alcantara regained consciousness. The woman then left the scene before police could identify her.

Medics transported the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment and observation due to fluid in the lungs.

Ogumoro said Alcantara was released from the hospital Monday morning.

"Police also learned that, while swimming, the victim had fainted, which led to his near drowning," Ogumoro said. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

CHRISTENING
Jared Coby Carreon Villagomez celebrates his baptism on Nov. 8, 2008, at St. Jude Catholic Church in Koblerville. From left, Daddy Jake, Mommy Rita, Sister Alannah, Nina Roselle, Baby Jared, Nino Nick, Nina Cindy, Nino Frank, and godbrother Jose.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FITIAL

From Page 1

quired employer contributions, now reportedly reaching over $119.6 million.

Govendo said the sole issue remaining to be determined is the amount of damages owed the Fund.

The judge granted the Fund's request for default judgment after the Attorney General's Office, as counsel for Fitial and the government, waited nearly two years to answer the complaint.

Govendo found no adequate reason for the delay and ordered the defendants' answer to the complaint be stricken from the record.

"Based on the record, testimony and evidence proffered during the Oct. 17, 2008, default judgment hearing, the court takes…notice that the defendants have admitted liability and have accepted as true the factual allegations of the…complaint," Govendo said.

He said the matter represents an issue of vital importance that will have far reaching consequences for every family in the Commonwealth.

"For the Commonwealth to say that it was unable to answer a lawsuit potentially worth upwards of 91 million dollars due to the 'press of other business' is both absurd and reprehensible," the judge stressed.

Govendo set the evidentiary hearing on the issue of damages for June 8, 9, 10, and 12, 2009, at 9am.

The Fund filed the lawsuit against the government, Fitial, Department of Finance, and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos in 2006 over the government's failure to remit required payments. On Oct. 3, 2006, the Fund filed a first amended complaint. On Oct. 23, 2006, the defendants filed a motion to dismiss the four causes of action in the lawsuit. The motion extended the defendants' time to file an answer by 10 days following the court's ruling on the motion. On May 6, 2008, then Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama denied defendants' motion to dismiss.

The government at that time had until May 16, 2008, to file its answer. The AGO filed the answer on June 24, 2008.

In his order granting default judgment, Govendo said the answer obviously was filed beyond the 10-day deadline and in fact was 39 days beyond the deadline.

Govendo said that when asked to explain the delay, assistant attorney general Anthony Welch said, "I messed up. It was me…if you need to sanction someone it should be me…it was my fault."

Govendo said he is appalled by this inexcusable lapse on the part of the Commonwealth as the government was put on notice in August 2006 that an answer was going to have to be filed.

The judge said Welch also stated both in court on Oct. 17, 2008, and in his motion to extend time to answer that he was too preoccupied with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and other responsibilities to address the Fund's complaint.

"The court finds this excuse unacceptable. Surely, regardless of the press of other business, the Attorney General's Office can be expected to find the resources to answer a multimillion dollar lawsuit within the time limit prescribed by law," he said.

Govendo said that to accept this excuse from an office that appears to be permanently under the "press of other business" and to not declare a default against the Commonwealth would set a precedent that the Commonwealth is free to disregard the rules of civil procedure.

With the default judgment and the answer stricken, Govendor said it is deemed that the defendants have admitted liability and agree with the facts as presented in the complaint.

However, he said, this admission as a matter of law is moot because the defendants have previously made repeated admissions of liability.

Govendo said that at the Oct. 17, 2008, hearing, Welch had stated, "What the Executive Branch can admit to, and it will make the following admission to this court, is that we owe a sum of money to the Retirement Fund. The amount is in dispute."

Govendo said the defendants have clearly and incontrovertibly admitted liability in this matter.

RETAILERS

From Page 1

ers are saving money due to economic uncertainty.

"We have a feeling because of the economic condition, especially contract workers, they don't really know what's going to happen in the future, so they are just saving money. That has an effect on our sales big time," he said.

Barja said he anticipates sales to be slightly lower than last year's.

"Sales will still be there, but its not going to be like pre-9/11 or pre-CUC, because consumers are just really tight with their money right now," he added.

Although power rates have decreased in recent months, they are high enough to shift consumer-buying habits. Consumers are now focusing on buying only essentials, he said.

Consumers have different priorities now, said Jose Tenorio, acting buyer at Joeten Wholesale.

"People are much more tight now with their money," he said. "They have priorities now with CUC and gas. Before they had priorities with shopping and groceries."

Tenorio said the company should see their highest sales during the holiday season, but are prepared for a decrease from last year—possibly as high as a double-digit decrease.

On Sunday, Matson Navigation Co. will decrease the fuel surcharge for Guam and the CNMI from 26.5 percent to 21 percent.

Both Tenorio and Barja said the 5 percentage point decrease would not have a large impact.

"It's only going to be cents," Barja said of product prices for consumers. "The decreases are very, very minimal. I don't really see a very big impact on the prices because Matson lowered it a little bit."

Barja said he has conducted his own analysis of data that shows ocean freight costs have increased 197 percent since 2002, while power has increased by 320 percent for the company, and fleet fuel costs have increased by 236 percent.

"All of these things have brought the prices up, even though Matson has decreased a little," he said.

Tenorio said the lower freight surcharge helps balance out the cost of power a little bit, but power still accounts for a large chunk of operational costs.

Both Joeten Wholesalers and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. are hoping to keep prices the same, Tenorio and Barja said.

In fact, Barja said Micronesia Brokers, Inc. wants to give consumers a break in December by lowering prices on some popular holidays items, like chocolate and rice.

"We will try to help out the community," he added.

US COURT

From Page 1

for the District of Columbia on Friday, Nov. 7, 2008.

In the motion, the CNMI government asks that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Labor be ordered to stop from taking over the Commonwealth's labor system. The government reiterates arguments stated in the original lawsuit that the labor provisions of the law, which President Bush signed earlier this year, will violate the promises of self-government and economic development detailed in the Covenant.

A 45-page memorandum submitted in support of the motion argues that the Commonwealth has met all the requirements for a preliminary injunction to be issued—namely, the CNMI is likely to win the lawsuit it previously filed against the U.S. government; the CNMI will "suffer immediate and irreparable harm" if the injunction is not issued; an injunction will cause no harm to the U.S. government; and an injunction is in the public interest.

"Without preliminary injunctive relief, the Commonwealth will suffer devastating and irreparable effects to its economy and the well-being of its people," says the memorandum. "The challenged provisions of the Act violate rights of autonomy, self-governance, and economic development that lie at the heart of a unique and judicially enforceable Covenant, pursuant to which the people of the Commonwealth affiliated with the United States."

According to the memorandum, the U.S. Congress overstepped its authority to impose federal immigration laws on the Commonwealth when it enacted Public Law 110-229, which the memorandum described as "a wholesale federal assault upon and takeover of the Commonwealth's fragile economy."

Labor provisions

The memorandum cites provisions appropriating the labor processing fees to the federal government, requiring all foreign workers to possess a federal immigration visa or special temporary federal work permit two years after the effective date of the law, and granting the DHS authority to decide which employers, in which industries, will be allowed to hire workers during the transition period. Most significantly, the memorandum takes issue with the elimination of temporary work permits after the transition period—in 2014 at the earliest—and the reduction of foreign workers to zero, unless they qualify for a federal immigration visa.

"Most of the foreign workers presently in the Commonwealth…do not qualify for a visa under any existing federal immigration classification. Thus, P.L. 110-229 mandates the removal of two-thirds of the Commonwealth's existing private sector workforce, many of whom have lived in the islands for years and have U.S. citizen children," the memorandum says.

"It does not take an economist to recognize that the elimination of two-thirds of the private sector workforce of a small island economy will devastate that economy and the people who are dependent on it," the memorandum adds, before referring to a recent study commissioned by the Fitial administration using U.S. Department of the Interior funds on the impact of the new immigration law.

Economic report

The study concludes that under a "federalized" immigration system, the Commonwealth stands to lose approximately 44 percent of its gross domestic product, 60 percent of its jobs, and 45 percent of its personal income by 2015.

Fitial, in a press conference yesterday, said he is now reviewing the economic report, which covers the impact not only of the new immigration law, but of recent federal policies on the Commonwealth. He said he has shared the report with members of the Legislature, Delegate-elect Gregorio Kilili Sablan, and members of the local business community, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Fitial said he will review the report with his Strategic Economic Development Council next week. He will also ask the private sector to pay for the cost of bringing the authors of the report, economists Malcolm D. McPhee and Richard S. Conway, to the CNMI to present the report's finding to local leaders and the CNMI community.

"This is an important study by credible professionals regarding the Commonwealth's economic decline, and I encourage everyone to review this study," said Fitial. He added that his administration will work with the Interior Department, other federal agencies, and the U.S. Congress to seek financial assistance in dealing with the challenges outlined in the economic report.

Fitial also praised what he described as the objectivity of the study and the professionalism of economists who prepared the report.

Not for litigation purposes

The Cabinet official primarily responsible for seeking funding and facilitating data for the economic study yesterday sought to refute suggestions that the report was commissioned to back the governor's much-criticized lawsuit against the U.S. government.

"I offered this to the Governor and SEDC in the spring of 2006. It was not meant to produce evidence for any litigation that did not exist at that time," said Richard A. Pierce, the governor's special assistant for economic affairs and trade relations.

According to Pierce, the purpose of study is "to provide a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the current CNMI economy, what changes in circumstances affecting the CNMI's economic development have done in the past decade, evidence the current depression the CNMI is experiencing, and examine new federal laws implemented as they would affect the CNMI's ability to produce jobs, revenue and a private sector tax base."

The economists were also asked to offer recommendations and suggestions that could be considered by CNMI officials in working with the federal government to economically arrest the current depressive trends.

"If anything, it was meant to demonstrate by withdrawing any economic incentives the CNMI prospered from between 1984 and 2000, the exact opposite should be expected to occur. If some wage, labor and trade incentives built a booming economy on small Pacific island in a matter of years, like gravity, the elimination of those incentives for development has sent an economy in exactly the opposite direction by virtue of their disappearance," Pierce said.

He added, "It doesn't mean you can't have an economy through some other means, it's just the math I'd like everyone to appreciate."

UCLA students explore NMI's high-tech potential

Five University of California-Los Angeles graduate students met with Gov. Benigno Fitial and other government officials yesterday to discuss the feasibility of bringing in high-technology companies to Saipan and making the island a high-tech center.

The five MBA students, who make up DMA Consulting, are researching how the island can take advantage of the CNMI's immigration and tax laws in order to bring in a high-tech company.

A high-tech company like Microsoft or Google could help revitalize the island's economy, said Russ Snow, president and CEO of United Micronesia Development Association.

"You have an opportunity here, hopefully, to make a little lemonade out of a lemon," Snow said.

Snow hired the five UCLA Anderson School of Management students to conduct the research. The students are Meera Damle, Dave Eckardt, Saurin Shah, Sarah Unger and David Wong.

Damle, a 2004 Washington University graduate (in St. Louse, Missouri) is studying strategy and entrepreneurship at UCLA. She is the lead student coordinator of the Global Business Leadership Competition and an active member of the Entrepreneurs Association.

Eckardt is a 2007 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He is studying operations and consulting at UCLA and serves as vice president of Ethics and vice president of Internal Affairs for the Anderson Military Club. He will begin Navy flight school in 2009.

Shah, a 2000 graduate from UNC Charlotte, is studying finance and real estate at UCLA. Before studying at UCLA, he worked at Wachovia and Accenture. He serves as head of the Knapp Business Plan Competition and is a member of the Anderson Real Estate Association.

Unger graduated from Duke University in 2003. She is focusing on strategy and finance at UCLA. She is the Academics chair for UCLA Anderson and has been a member of the Dean's List throughout her time at UCLA Anderson. Prior to UCLA Anderson, Unger worked at Qualcomm in San Diego.

A 2003 Columbia University graduate, Wong is focusing on strategy and finance while at UCLA. He is vice president of finance for the Strategic Operations Management Association and the vice president of finance and operations for the High-Tech Business Association. He interned for Google this summer.

PUC consultants begin analysis of power rates

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Consultants hired by the Public Utilities Commission are preparing to return to the United States, where they will use data from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to prepare a rate study and make recommendations on setting CUC's power rates, said PUC vice chair Kyle Calabrese.

The PUC board members will accept, reject or modify the Georgetown Consulting Group's recommendation, he added.

PUC must review and set utility rates before the Dec. 31, 2008, deadline set by law. If the PUC fails to meet this deadline, CUC will be forced to reduce power rates down to 17 cents per kWh—a prospect that will make it impossible for CUC to pay for fuel supply and maintenance of its engines and to pay its independent power producers.

The consultants were on island for a week to meet with CUC officials, receive documents and data, and tour CUC's sites.

"We're pretty pleased they're here and working," Calabrese said about the consultants. "Everything seems to be going relatively smoothly."

The consultants are "working in a more compressed timeframe than they might otherwise prefer, " but it will not compromise their final recommendation, he added.

The PUC is working closely with CUC in the process, but it will ultimately be up to the commission to set the rates, Calabrese said.

"At the end of the day, Georgetown works with the PUC, and we will make our decisions based on the information and materials and recommendations they provide to us, their client," he said. "So it's collaborative in the sense that CUC doesn't have their own independent consulting firm involved in this, which is fine. I don't think they necessarily need one. But decisions PUC ultimately make will be based on what we feel is necessary for the Commonwealth and CUC to survive financially and operationally as they should."

Women for Jesus Conference starts today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Women for Jesus is holding a two-day retreat with the theme "Women Imparting to Women" starting at 7pm today, Nov. 14, at the Grace Christian Assembly on Navy Hill.

The participants will be also having lunch tomorrow Nov. 15, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club with a price $15.

Pastor Gail Kamakani will be the main speaker in this first ever conference on Saipan by the WFJ.

Joyce Palacios, one of the organizers, said they are inviting women of all beliefs and races to come and hear inspiring messages in time for the holidays.

She said the purpose of the conference is to share the joy of salvation and the Gospel of Christ. She said that, despite the many problems women face today such as the economic crisis and rising prices, there is hope for the future.

"We would like to share with them this hope. Before I had a revelation with Jesus, I was hopeless. I was dying spiritually. So that is why I want to invite them to this conference," she said.

Palacios, who has been attending a similar conference in Hawaii since 1987 with other women from Saipan, said the two-day activity is an outreach program by the group.

"I was saved in 1984. I had no relationship with Jesus. I thought I was going to hell but then I did not want to," she said. "We want women to know that through Jesus their lives can be changed into something better. We promise that when they come to hear us tell of our experience, they will have something better in their mind to hope for," Palacios said.

She said their group will pray for peace for everybody during the holidays, whether it be Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day.

"Have a blessed holidays. We hope to see the women of all belief or race to come, whatever problems they have. We are all sinners but there is hope for everyone. Come to this conference and experience and discover why Jesus died for us," Palacios said.

Pastor Kamakani and her husband George are founders and senior pastors of Thy Word Ministries Inc., which has churches based in Hawaii, Las Vegas, Saipan, and several affiliations in the Philippines.

She had been conducting Women for Jesus conferences since 1983.

Pastor Gail is an ordained minister and has been in the pastoral ministry for 27 years.

For more information, contact the following: Joyce Palacios (2343720), Rose White (2347219), Vivian Trinidad (2880328), Connie Kenney (2854904) and Bobbie Solberg (2884556) or email bsolberg@saipan.com.

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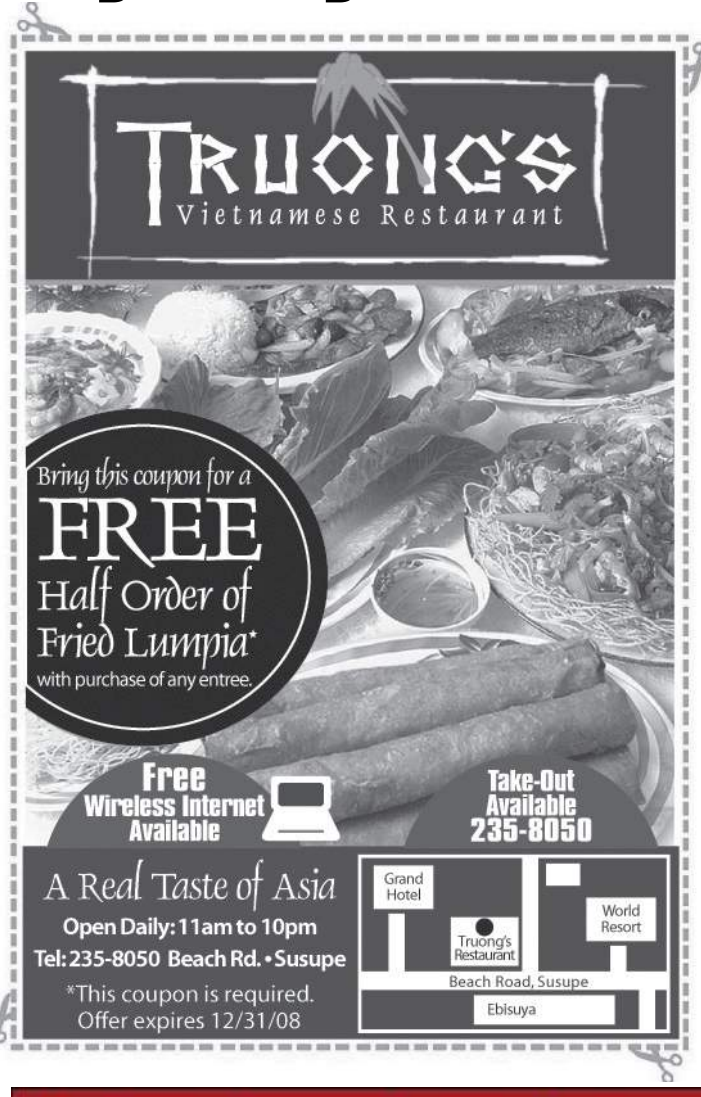
Mystery of the sprouting 'cairns' at Suicide Cliff



By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Have you ever been to Suicide Cliff these past few months? If not, a visit to this historic spot is in order, not just to reacquaint one's self with the panoramic view this promontory affords but to share in the mystery of small cairns that have been sprouting along the road leading up to the site.

Seemingly out of nowhere, these odd stone monuments made of small rocks and arranged into some kind of monoliths or mounds began sprouting in the area some months ago and are now most numerous in the last two-mile stretch going up the site.

Long-time island resident Ruth Tighe said the small cairns or mounds of stones are built along the pathway up to the historic site by individuals who just happen to go there on their walking exercise routines—not by government or any group and at no cost.

One such regular morning walker is credited for most of these stone creations. "I'm not even an artist. I do it primarily to make people wonder about them," he said.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Stone monuments made of small rocks and arranged into some kind of monoliths line the road going up Suicide Cliff.

To perpetuate the mystery, this "small cairns builder" has asked that he not be identified in this story. "Of course, people who see me putting those know what I am doing," but for those who don't, especially new visitors, "they would wonder and think about them in a different way."

This Colorado native, whose father came from Scotland to the United States, has been on Saipan since 1981 but "I've only been doing this for the past four months. I walk up there in the morning with my dogs."

"Cairns are built as landmarks in Scotland but this is something that I didn't even do in Colorado. I just thought of doing something that would make visitors think why these [cairns] are there," he said.

"It's good to know how people will interpret it and I know they will think about it in a different perspective. They may even see it as a religious thing or part of the local culture. I don't know how they will react to it," he added.

Though not Stonehenge by any stretch of imagination, the stone formations are quickly apparent as deliberate, precarious sculpture pieces that add a hint of mystery to the deserted stretch of road leading up to Suicide Cliff.

"At one point, there must be 15 or so all in view at the same time. They are intriguing; they look different depending on the angle from which they are viewed, and the time of the day and angle of the sun. They make a wonderful tourist attraction, as well as a welcome diversion to people slogging up the hill for their daily exercise," according to Tighe in an e-mail.

But for the builder, "when I look at them I like the balance. You can see irregular shapes from different angles at different times of the day."

"I don't look it as art. I just do it for fun. So it's better not to put my name in the newspaper. Don't you think that this would add to the mystery of it?" says the cairn builder.

He is just glad that the bush cutters and green machine operators who regularly mow the grass in the area make sure that they don't destroy his creations.

Tighe says the most important aspect of these creations is the beauty and the enhancement they bring to the surroundings.

Sasamoto's contract renewed as WTF manager

The Water Task Force and the Office of the Governor have awarded a contract for Program Management of the Water Task Force for the next two years to Pedro Sasamoto.

"Mr. Sasamoto's accomplishments in the past two years have been extraordinary," said Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez task force chairman. "We are pleased to see him continue in this role."

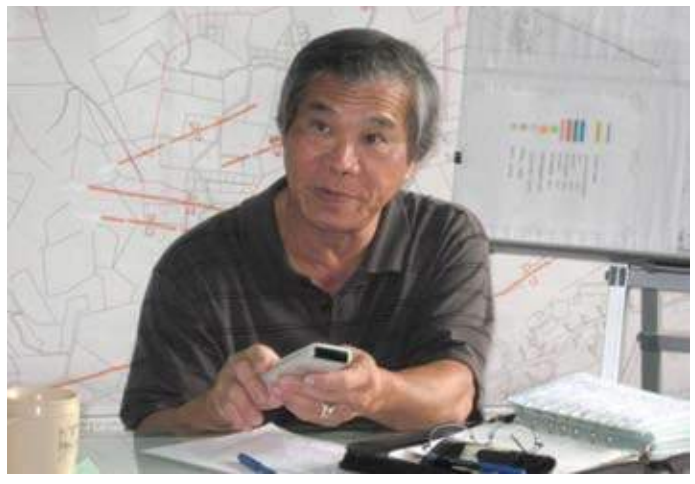
"There is a long list of projects done well, done on time and done according to an overall plan for improving the whole Saipan water system," Villagomez added. "Mr. Sasamoto's leadership is a model to us all of how we can efficiently and effectively put our federal dollars to work for real progress."

The project Sasamoto has directed with the greatest immediate impact is the Leak Detection and Repair Project. Before July 12, 2007, most of Chalan Kanoa, Susupe and San Antonio had only two hours of water per day. Today, with the leak detection project nearly completed, 100 percent of residential customers have water 24 hours a day.

This reality of 24-hour water has been out of reach for many on Saipan for years. In December 2006 only 26 percent of Saipan's population had 24-hour water. Now 75 percent of the population—approximately 47,000 people—have 24-hour water. Later this yea, the Water Task Force, under Sasamoto's direction, will begin two projects in Garapan to repair and replace leaking waterlines.

New projects include a new waterline under construction now that will connect six wells in As Matuis to the water system. This new water source will supply As Matuis, San Roque and Tanapag and is also expected to provide excess supply that can be directed to the Garapan area where it is badly needed.

During Sasamoto's first stint as Program Manager, the task force constructed a new water tank on Navy Hill and made plans for another in Dandan. Two other tanks have been rehabilitated—Calhoun and Capitol Hill. Tank rehabilitation is currently underway at the Isley Field Reservoir.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

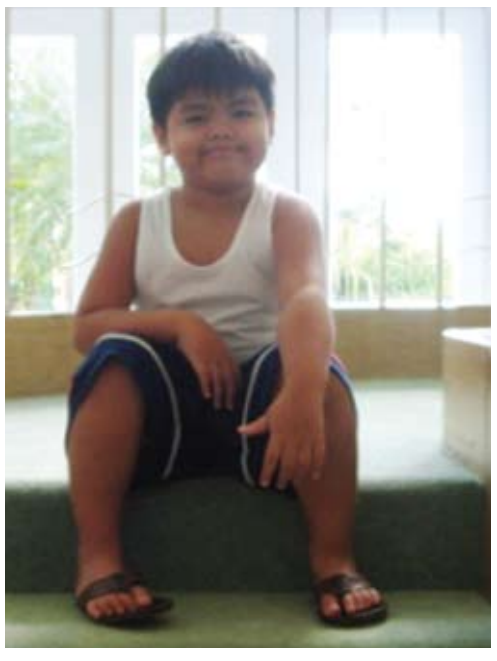
Water Task Force program manager Pedro Sasamoto.

Under Sasamoto, the task force also obtained FEMA funding for the protection of the water wells. Each of 69 well sites has been inspected, rehabilitated and outfitted with a new control panel. The panels and chlorination units are now sheltered in small buildings, safe from the damage of high winds or typhoons. More well upgrades will be done in the coming year.

"This is a time not only to congratulate Mr. Sasamoto on being awarded a new contract," said the Lt. Governor, "but it is also a time to thank him and say how much we all appreciate his dedicated service and his ability to get the job done." ***(WTF)***

BEAUTIES AT WORK CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miss Marianas Beauty Pageant candidates Alexandra Silva, standing, and Leovita Cabrera take time to pose for a photo while volunteering for the many beautification projects launched by the Northern Marianas College on its Saipan campus in October.



MATH WHIZ

Congratulations to Codie Joseph Escota for winning first place in the Math Court competition held last Nov. 8, 2008. "We're proud of you!"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Free foot clinic for diabetics today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Physical Therapy Department of the Commonwealth Health Center is inviting the public to an open house foot clinic as a way of celebrating World Diabetes Day today.

The clinic is scheduled from 1pm to 4pm and includes free services for blood sugar check, blood pressure check, foot inspection, instruction in diabetic foot care, education in blood sugar control, education in nutrition, vision check, and health snacks and refreshments.

Pam Carhill, chief instructor and CHC's PT Department manager, said this would be an opportunity for patients to meet developers and staff members involved in the Diabetic Foot Clinic, which has been operating since 2004.

Since that time, Carhill said, major amputations in the CNMI had been reduced to 77 percent. The PT Department receives an average of 4-9 patients a day.

Studies show that about 30 percent or a third of the CNMI's population have diabetes.

The PT Department is open from 9am to 11am every Wednesday.

"We encourage patients to come with members of the family because that is very important in the healing process," Carhill said.

Today's open house clinic is spearheaded by physical therapist Dana McFadden. She will be joined by PT Jamie Beavis to attend to patients.

Nurse educator Bobby Ayres, dietician Louise Oakley and the staff of Marianas Eye Institute will also be there to educate patients.

During an open house clinic last year, Carhill said they discovered that 10 people who had no diagnosis of diabetes had higher than normal sugars and referred them to doctors.

Carhill explained that patients needed to see a dietician because it is important that they know how to make changes in their eating habits.

"A high percentage of sugar in a person's body will most likely result in body illnesses. It affects the blood vessels, it can damage the eyes and the foot," she said.

She said it is also important for diabetics to learn how to take their medicines.

With a large contribution and effort by the Diabetes Coalition, the Pacific Diabetes Education Program and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, the CHC PT Department is able to come up with ways on how to take care or assist patients in the CNMI.

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Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 14, 2000

House bars cops from confiscating driver's license
Following scrutiny by lawmakers, the House of Representatives yesterday finally cleared legislation that will bar police officers from confiscating driver's license when issuing citation ticket for committing a traffic violation or infraction. The move came after the lower house reviewed existing laws that have given the Department of Public Safety the power to seize the license in order to compel violators to appear in court to pay fines.

Japanese arrivals fall 10 percent in October
The controversial travel advisory issued by the Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September has apparently taken its toll on the CNMI tourist industry, pulling down the number of visitors ferried by Japan Airlines by 10 percent in October. However, JAL officials emphasized that intensified promotion on domestic tourism in Japan and the lack of activities on the island were the major reasons behind the plunge in the overall number of Saipan-bound Japanese travelers last month.

November 14, 2001

DPH creates bioterror task force
Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez has formed the Department of Public Health Bioterrorism Task Force following the anthrax scare that gripped Saipan last week. The task force, chaired by the health secretary, is composed of representatives from the different divisions of the Department that include the Commonwealth Health Center administrator, the director of medical affairs, an epidemiologist, environmental health specialists, pharmacists, emergency room staff and three certified hazardous material personnel.

AG wasnts testimonies suppressed in Tinian murder case
The Attorney General's Office has filed a court motion, seeking to exclude two pieces of testimonial evidence in the forthcoming murder trial of Tinian resident Juanito M. Alcantara. The government through Chief Prosecutor Kevin A. Lynch moved to suppress testimonies relating to a hammer that was allegedly found inside the victim's bedroom. Moreover, the prosecution also asked the court to discount the victim's parents' theory about the case.

November 14, 2002

Babauta, NMI govt sued
The Civil Service Commission filed a lawsuit yesterday against Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the Commonwealth government, in an attempt to prevent the termination of several civil service employees who have been converted to exempted position. The commission, which is seeking to strip the Governor of control over the Office of Personnel Management, asserted that some statutory provisions giving Babauta powers over personnel matters, as well as an executive order creating excepted service positions, are unconstitutional; thus, they should have no force and effect. The commission also assailed the Governor's legal authority to appoint its executive director.

8K Chinese tourists since April '02
China Southern Air brought in close to 10,000 tourists to the Northern Marianas since the air carrier began direct charter flight to the Commonwealth in April 2002. The touristswho arrived through the bi-weekly flights of the air carrier to Saipan-boosted the recovery efforts of the CNMI tourism industry, Tinian Dynasty Hotel Manager Tom Liu said.

November 14, 2003

'Reevaluate CK as Saipan capital'
House members agreed yesterday that it's time to rethink Chalan Kanoa as Saipan's capital amid the area's state of disrepair, which reportedly does nothing to leave a nice, lasting impression on visitors. The lower house adopted House Resolution 13-180, urging the administration to form a task force that would reevaluate CK as the island's capital.

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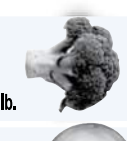

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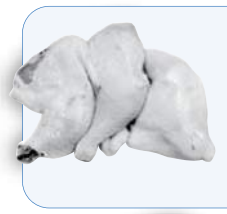

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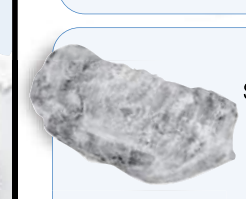

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Mr. Obama's war

WASHINGTON—Will the "war on terror" continue once the Obama administration is in office? In one sense the answer is easy: Barack Obama made clear during the election campaign that he takes the threat of al-Qaida and other extremist groups seriously. He's been hawkish in proposing more troops for Afghanistan as well as unilateral strikes targeting al-Qaida in Pakistan. He's promised to dedicate more resources to preventing the worst-case scenario of terrorists obtaining weapons of mass destruction.

Still, there are many indications that the campaign launched by George W. Bush after Sept. 11, 2001—an effort that for all its faults has prevented another attack on the U.S. homeland—is losing momentum. Just 5 percent of voters in a pre-election Washington Post-ABC poll cited terrorism as their biggest concern. Last Sunday, The Post's Craig Whitlock reported that the global system for blacklisting financiers of al-Qaida and other terrorist groups was "at risk of collapse" because of court challenges and faltering commitment by governments—including some in Europe. European leaders are also loath to commit more troops to Afghanistan.

Among Democrats in Congress, there is a pent-up demand to reverse some of Bush's anti-terrorism measures, starting with the detention of foreign prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. While that's a step we support, it leaves open the questions of what to do with more than 250 accused "enemy combatants" still there—many of them senior al-Qaida leaders or dangerous militants—and how and where to hold al-Qaida operatives who are captured abroad in the future. Some who have advised Obama, such as former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, question the premises of a "war on terror." All this means that Obama will face a challenge, early on, in defining what the fight against terrorism means for his administration and how it will be waged. Whether or not he adopts the term "war on terror," he will have to convince Americans, his party and U.S. allies that the threat remains real and urgent—because, as anyone following events in Afghanistan and Pakistan knows, it does. But he will also have to distinguish his own campaign from that of Bush, eliminating the excesses of the latter without lessening the pressure on al-Qaida.

In political terms, the toughest part of this may not lie in Afghanistan or Pakistan but at Guantanamo. Bush will leave behind a broken system for detaining and trying the "enemy combatants" there; its military review panels and commission trials have little international credibility and were crippled by a Supreme Court decision in June allowing prisoners to challenge their detentions in federal court. But the U.S. legal system does not provide enough flexibility to detain suspects who may not be guilty of a crime but pose a serious security threat.

The reasonable solution is new legislation that would allow the detention of al-Qaida militants in either the United States or prisons it controls abroad, while banning abusive treatment and providing for regular and full review by independent judges. An early proposal of such a regime by Obama to Congress, coupled with the announcement of Guantanamo's closing, would signal that he will be serious about fighting al-Qaida—and also that he will avoid Bush's mistakes.

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Financial wisdom from Mom

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

One of the CNMI's government officials used to mock my humble car. "Why don't you get a new car?" she chided me, "I know you can afford one."

I'd just shrug and laugh. That car was the first new car I had ever owned. I bought it in Texas. I loved it so much I had it shipped to Saipan. A good car is more than a car, it is a best friend. I like cars. They're human, after all.

I remember how shopping for that car steered me into the best financial advice I ever got. That was to be my first substantial loan and, as I was shopping around, I called Mom and told her that I seemed incapable of allowing myself to get an expensive car, as all my friends were doing. Everyone had access to ample credit. Car-wise, the sky was the limit for us. My pals were buying red Corvettes. One got a Porsche.

Here was Mom's comment: "Money that you haven't earned yet is easier to spend than money that you have earned."

Most economists would argue that point. They'd say that the dollar is "homogenous," in other words, that every dollar is the same as every other dollar. But most of us know that working for money is different than being given it as an entitlement (as if the CNMI needs more evidence of that). So, even assuming you're earning money and not just being given it, the money you earned really is different than the money you haven't earned yet.

To me, having worked at a variety of minimum wage jobs as a teenager, along with various youthful freelance work such as lawn-mowing and snow-shoveling, every dollar I had represented some genuine work. It was X-amount of hours selling luggage at a grim, downscale department store; Y-amount of hours shoveling walkways in cold Illinois blizzards; Z-amount of sleepless nights as a security guard working graveyard shift.

A car loan to me was not just a number on paper. It was real money. Yeah, I had a good job at the time, but that wasn't the point.

But I am in the minority on that. I don't think that humans are really geared toward the abstract quantification of future events. A loan, to so many people, is just something that happens in the murky future, and the future doesn't really exist, it's just a weightless and invisible concept.

I'm not discounting the blessings of credit. And, in fact, I regularly discuss its importance here, especially when it comes to having good credit cards and a good credit score. In particular, I have tried to give Saipan's U.S.-bound workers some prodding to come to grips with the U.S. consumer credit market, since it influences every aspect of life there, from what you drive, to your insurance rates, to how much you pay for housing, to (in some cases) whether or not an employer hires you.

In the age of mass media and wholesale groupthink, beliefs are usually polarized into opposite camps, and credit is no exception. Many people, at least in the U.S. mainland, will borrow as much as they can until they go broke. Then they're stuck. That's one extreme. The other extreme has the atavistic types who think that all credit is some sort of sinister conspiracy; they like to showboat their "independence," which makes them the temporary hero of the pool hall or the coffee house. The counter-culture hero status lasts until they have to produce a credit card for a rental car, or a hotel room, or a Web purchase, or for Internet service, or, well whatever else.

Then they're stuck, too. I guess they don't make heroes the way they used to.

Anyway, back in paradise, many of Saipan's garment workers have often banked $20,000 or $30,000 or so before returning home, which, in their native lands, is enough to bootstrap them into small-business-owner status, members of the burgeoning middle class. I know of workers that banked far more, so I'm not giving you some high figure for that.

Meanwhile, I've seen my share of Americans who have lived comparatively easy lives, who have never held full-time minimum wage jobs, but who are actually worth less than zero because their irresponsible borrowings, oftentimes coupled with their feckless gambling in the stock market, have done the inevitable.

Earned money trumps make-believe wealth in the long run. This wisdom will set the stage for the coming financial turmoil, which is just getting started. Some people in the Commonwealth get the point. Some never will.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A new icon of an age beyond race

By DESMOND TUTU
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—I am rubbing my eyes in disbelief and wonder. It can't be true that Barack Obama, the son of a Kenyan, is the next president of the United States.

But it is true, exhilaratingly true. An unbelievable turnaround. I want to jump and dance and shout, as I did after voting for the first time in my native South Africa on April 27, 1994.

We owe our glorious victory over the awfulness of apartheid in South Africa in large part to the support we received from the international community, including the United States, and we will always be deeply grateful. But for those of us who have looked to America for inspiration as we struggled for democracy and human rights, these past seven years have been lean ones.

A few days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, we had our first shock, hearing your president respond not with the statesmanlike demeanor we had come to expect from a U.S. head of state but like a Western gunslinger. Later, it seemed that much of American society was following his lead.

When war began, first in Afghanistan and not long after in Iraq, we read allegations of prisoner abuse at Bagram air base in Afghanistan and of rendition to countries notorious for practicing torture. We saw the horrific images from Abu Ghraib and learned of gruesome acts performed in the name of gathering information. Sometimes the torture itself was couched in the government's euphemisms—calling waterboarding an "interrogation technique."

To the outgoing administration's record on torture we must add a string of other policies that have damaged the standing of the United States in the world: its hostility to the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gases; its refusal to assent to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, establishing the ICC's role in prosecuting war crimes; its restrictions on the use of U.S. funding to fight AIDS; and the arrogant unilateralism it has employed in declaring to be enemies any countries it deemed "against us" because they were not "for us."

The Bush administration has riled people everywhere. Its bully-boy attitude has sadly polarized our world.

Against all this, the election of Barack Obama has turned America's image on its head. My wife was crying with incredulity and joy as we watched a broadcast of the celebrations in Chicago. A newspaper here ran a picture of Obama from an earlier trip to one of our townships, where he was mobbed by youngsters. It was tacitly saying that we are proud he once visited us.

Today Africans walk taller than they did a week ago—just as they did when Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president in 1994. Not only Africans, but people everywhere who have been the victims of discrimination at the hands of white Westerners, have a new pride in who they are. If a dark-skinned person can become the leader of the world's most powerful nation, what is to stop children everywhere from aiming for the stars? The fact that Obama's Kenyan grandfather was a convert to Islam may—shamefully—have been controversial in parts of the United States, but elsewhere in the world, Obama's multi-faith heritage is an inspiration.

And the president-elect has one additional key quality: He is not George W. Bush.

Because the Bush years have been disastrous for other parts of the world in many ways, Obama's victory dramatizes the self-correcting mechanism that epitomizes American democracy. Elsewhere, oppressors, tyrants and their lapdogs can say what they like, and they stay put, for the most part. Ordinary citizens living in undemocratic societies are not fools; they may not always agree with U.S. foreign policy, but they can see and register the difference between the United States, where people can kick an unpopular political party out, and their own countries.

In the midst of this celebration, however, a word of caution is appropriate. In the first days after 9/11, the United States had the world's sympathy, an unprecedented wave of it. President Bush squandered it. Obama could squander the goodwill that his election has generated if he does not move quickly and decisively on the international front.

On human rights, President Obama needs to signal the changes his administration will bring by speedily taking a few high-profile symbolic actions. One might be to close that abomination, the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Another could be immediate replacement of guidelines on the treatment of detainees, thus putting the United States back in the mainstream of international humanitarian law. He could launch a comprehensive inquiry into who authorized torture and when. And it would be wonderful if, on behalf of the nation, he would apologize to the world, and especially the Iraqis, for an invasion that I believe has turned out to be an unmitigated disaster.

On humanitarian issues, he will be hard-pressed in the ongoing global financial crisis to match the current administration's generally admirable record. President Bush has succeeded in working with Congress to devote unprecedented amounts of money to fighting malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. But if the United States is to show that it places as much value on a human life in Africa as on one in the United States, Obama actually has to improve on Bush's achievements.

Obama's election has given Americans the message that hope is viable, that change is really possible. He galvanized huge numbers of his compatriots across the board, particularly young people who had become disillusioned with politics. He drew huge numbers of volunteers and raised record amounts of money, not just in donations from the wealthy but in relatively small amounts from many so-called ordinary people. Judging by the reception he received in Berlin earlier this year, he has given the world similar hope.

The renowned African scholar Ali Mazrui has pointed out that Obama could never have gotten as far as he has without an exceptional level of trust on the part of white Americans. In this, his achievement is similar to what Nelson Mandela had achieved by the end of his presidency; Mandela's party may never have drawn a majority of white votes, but he has come to be revered by white as well as black South Africans as the founding father of our democracy.

Mazrui likens Obama to Mandela in other ways, saying that both men share a readiness to forgive and show "a remarkable capacity to transcend historical racial divides." Both, Mazrui says, are "potential icons of a post-racial age which is unfolding before our eyes."

Such a post-racial age for me has the characteristics of a rainbow. We are in a different time now than when I first spoke of a rainbow nation, describing the South Africa that Mandela led for the first time in 1994. But my vision for such a place remains. It is a place where people of each race and cultural group exhibit their own unique identity, their own distinct attributes, but where the beauty of the whole gloriously exceeds the sum of its parts.

Obama is the son of a Kenyan man and a Kansan woman. He spoke movingly about his background during his long campaign. Now he's the president-elect. His triumph can help the world reach the point where we realize that we are all caught up in a delicate network of interdependence, unable to celebrate fully our own heritage and place in the world, unable to realize our full potential as human beings, unless everyone else, everywhere else, can do the same.

Desmond Tutu is the Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Letters to the Editor

What happened and who is responsible

We are dismayed and seriously concerned about the statements made by Kenan Knieriem of Merrill Lynch, who supervises the Retirement Fund's nine money managers, who invested our money in the stock market and lost it with no possible return.

What retirees or pending retirees don't realize and should be demanding at this point is what happened and who is responsible for such losses? Who is responsible for such gross negligence and mismanagement of one's contributions toward their future and current pensions.

In our view it is the board of trustees that are ultimately responsible and accountable, including Merrill Lynch. The board is the decision making body of the Retirement Fund and we believe that Mr. Juan Pan Guerrero and his fellow board members have a lot of explaining to do.

Not only do we have pending retirees who are ready to retire, they are on hold due to financial constraints between our government and the Retirement Fund. Merrill Lynch, which lost our investments in the stock market, is not being held accountable and responsible but is now pushing to reduce retirees' pensions in order to recover from their mistakes and incompetence.

Last year, it was predicted that the Fund's assets would be depleted in approximately 12 years or so. Judging from the figures that Merrill Lynch presented, the depletion will be in less than eight years.

The entire board of trustees and Merrill Lynch should be investigated immediately, to include the Retirement Fund consultants and comptrollers, as to why and how this whole mess came about.

The future of our current retirees and government employees, who have all contributed faithfully and honestly to the Fund for their future benefits, are now at risk of losing half of their pension due to someone else's incompetence. The other concern is, does the Retirement Fund have liability insurance from Merrill Lynch covering the lost investments in the stock market? Or is this the type of investment they call "invest-at-your-own-risk-and-worry-about-the-retirees-concerns-later."

Everyone must be mindful that Sections 20 of the Constitution clearly states that "membership in an employee retirement system of the Commonwealth shall constitute a contractual relationship. Accrued benefits of this system shall be neither diminished nor impaired."

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Cool breeze of holiday season

There's the fresh cool breeze rustling through coconut fronds above. I could sense it as it rushes from the windward to leeward side of this tiny isle. I felt a sense of sadness, though, quizzing how would this holiday season be for most of us battered by external phenomenon beyond our control.

Though the face of hopelessness stares down mercilessly before our naked eyes—what with bad tidings on national television about plunges in the stock global market—a certain fear has stilled my senses for I know no better either. I find it unsettling trying to figure out how would the most recent mega-investments would fare in the dreaded global financial meltdown.

But I find peace in the freshness and joyful spirit of the air all around, loaded with a crisp and simple message of hope for this holiday season: It still is a wonderful world, sir! Prepare for the traditional Noche Buena and Año Nuevo. Indeed, we've come this far and we still have the resiliency to conquer our hopes and dreams for a brighter tomorrow.

Mesñgon yan metgot i natibu na finañago gi halom mattiron todo batidan chinatsaga. Maila ta fan a`sustene uno yan otro pago na Noche Buena ya ta gagao i Niño Jesus bendision alibiu gi nuebo na sakan. Taya mask e fuetsan tinayuyot. Si Yuus Maase`!

Sinseramente,

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Making myself clear

I'm writing to you today because I don't know which rumor is true. And I also wanted to make myself clear.

The first I heard was that nonresidents in the CNMI cannot sign the petition. Some say they can. And second, we won't be able to fish in our own waters up there. Some say we still could.

My question is how do people go there? Or do people even go there? What kind of boat do they use?

My cousin is a full supporter of the proposed National Marine Monument. She is also a volunteer. She taught me lots of interesting information about the islands and the animals that live there. She gave me a booklet with tons of cool pictures and facts about the three islands. That booklet is called "Scientific Report."

Anyway, one day I went to PriceCostco and saw two men standing by the door with petition in their hands. They greeted me and asked me if I have heard about the proposed marine monument. I said yes! I grabbed his pen and gave him my signature.

Yes, I am 17 years old and I am one of the 5,000 people that signed the petition in support of the Marine Monument. I am a local resident of the Commonwealth, and I was educated about the issue before signing the petition. I just wanted to make that clear.

Ben Deleon Guerrero Jr.
Dandan, Saipan

No coercion

Oh man, was I excited to see that thousands and thousands of people signed the petition in support of the marine monument.

I'm proud to say that I am one of those who signed, knowing that it would be a great opportunity for my daughter when she gets older.

I support the marine monument because I was taught/educated that it would bring great benefits to both our schools and our tourist industry. Most importantly media attention! That gives people from around the world a chance to learn about our ocean's marine life.

I signed the petition that was circulated by my sister, who is a volunteer and a full supporter. She taught our family a lot about the marine monument. I was educated, not forced, and I completely understood what I was signing.

Maegan Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼78°

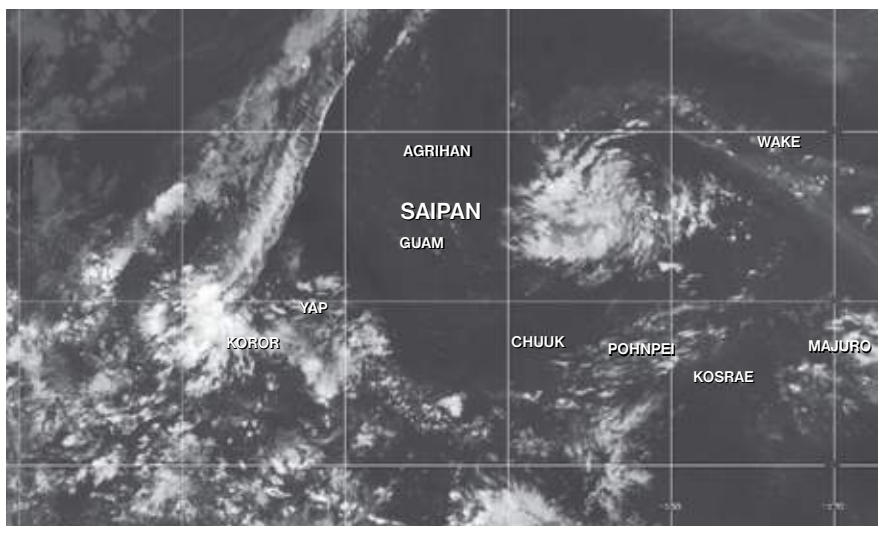
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼58
Beijing	Showers	▲50	▼34
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲82	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲59	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼58
Manila	Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲68	▼47
Miami	Cloudy	▲86	▼73
New York	Showers	▲61	▼52
Osaka	Sunny	▲68	▼51
Paris	Showers	▲53	▼42
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼50
Rome	Showers	▲63	▼52
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲58	▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼41
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼51
Washington, DC	Showers	▲63	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 17N130E to beyond 25N at 138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 100 miles of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends through a weak circulation centered at 6N131E southeastward to end at EQ140E. Scattered showers and few thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation are occurring near Palau and Yap or within an area from 8N130Eto 13N138E to 4N141E back to 8N130E. A mid to upper-level low is centered east of the Mariana Islands at 17N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within an area from 19N154E to 16N165E to 12N158E to 14N151E back to 19N154E. A surface trough near Pohnpei extends from 4N154E to 8N159E and is producing scattered showers within 75 miles of the trough line. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in two areas. One area across the Marshall Islands is from 9N172E to 4N179E to 5N168E back to 9N172E. A smaller area is southeast of Wake Atoll within 75 miles of a line from 16N173E to 13N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:54AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:57AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:19PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:14PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:19AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:19AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:20AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:20AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:33PM	7:01AM
Saturday	7:38PM	8:09AM
Sunday	8:45PM	9:15AM
Monday	9:51PM	10:16AM
Tuesday	10:52PM	11:09AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Letter to the Editor

Missed point, indeed

Friends have taken this exchange with Kimo "instructive," so this final rejoinder is for the on-readers as much as it is for us. Kimo can continue with what one of my colleagues described as a "diatribe."

My initial reflection was about "my chill …" triggered by many things, not the least of which were the Obama speech at Grant Park and the immediate response of one of my students when I announced the results of the U.S. presidential election. I was describing certain events in my personal history that gave me this chill, and the note of foreboding over Obama's safety and security.

Kimo keeps insisting that I implied and meant certain meanings that I do not recognize as my own. That he inferred them is a product of his context. He cannot seem to distinguish the two.

Here's my commentary on the second paragraph of his claim that I missed his points: *A couple of days ago, Vergara publicly shared an* unfortunate (his inference, not mine) *incident he had with one of his local SVES students. He partly wrote and I quote (nothing here is made up): "announced my delight over Obama's election, one of my local students blurted out: the b---- n-----? I was stunned. It was a knee-jerk response of a child echoing something he learned from his home and culture." (I decided not to spell out the* racist (I never claimed it was a racist remark. Kimo inferred it. In fact, "the black nigger" is a phrase commonly used in rap music that students in my class hear in their iPods and contemporary CDs. In the Westside of Chicago where I spent some time, it is even a phrase of masculine pride. My narrative was about the chilling effect the term make on me, NOT A STATEMENT ABOUT THE VALUES OF MY STUDENT, or that of his home or culture!) *It would indeed be interesting to learn how* Veraga (this misspelling of my name has caused students to call me "Mr. Viagra," previously reported in a story on *Glimpses* magazine, and picked up by the Governor, who uses it on those rare occasions when we bump into each other at a social function) *arrived at the conclusion that the child's remarks are attributed to the student's* upbringing and culture. (Home and culture have multiple meanings. The CNMI as home to me is just as valid as saying my home is a specific family and dwelling. Had Kimo inquired what I meant rather than assume I implied what he inferred, we might arrive at an understanding. That he did not bother to do so first—no judgment on the student's upbringing was made—and even pause to guess what I might have meant, makes the next statement where he seems to take on the role of prosecuting attorney, jury and judge, understandable. In any case, there is neither a condemnation nor judgment made in the statement, nor was it implied. That Kimo inferred it is again for his own reasons rather than inherent in the statement.) *I am certain that the parents of this kid would not appreciate Mr. Vergara's knee-jerk assumption* (the mother works with me and does not recall ever engaging Kimo to be his son's defense attorney, nor as the culture's sudden advocate!) *and sudden rush to judgment. For one thing, this youth's misguided* (hardly misguided; more like a reflexive and habitual response with the impingement of American contemporary music into the island culture) *remark does not merit this teacher's unbecoming actions* (hm-m-m-m) *wherein the latter took it upon himself to* selfishly or unfairly (duh!) *use his young student for his own advantage. Call it calling a spade a spade. With that said, I believe that an apology from Vergara to his student, the parents of his student, and the CNMI locals is definitely in order. The CNMI is not a hub for racists! Ethnically or otherwise!*

On the last third statement: OK. It is in order: I apologize for triggering Kimo's irate experience of having someone seemingly step on his toes, ethnically or personally. That he experienced something like the bursting of a bubble, I would not be surprised. That I caused it, nah, some of our hurts are known to be self-inflicted.

On the last two exclamatories!! We are the United States where racial discrimination is the law. The CNMI Constitution allows only for people of indigenous descent to own real estate. I am politically liberal and I understand "affirmative action." That the provision is temporary makes it bearable for some of us. Nevertheless, that is still pure and simple racism. So Kimo, get off the high horse of self-righteous indignation. We are constitutionally racist! Of the cultural kind, other indigenes have spoken more eloquently about it, with depth of regrets, than I can.

Jaime Vergara
via e-mail

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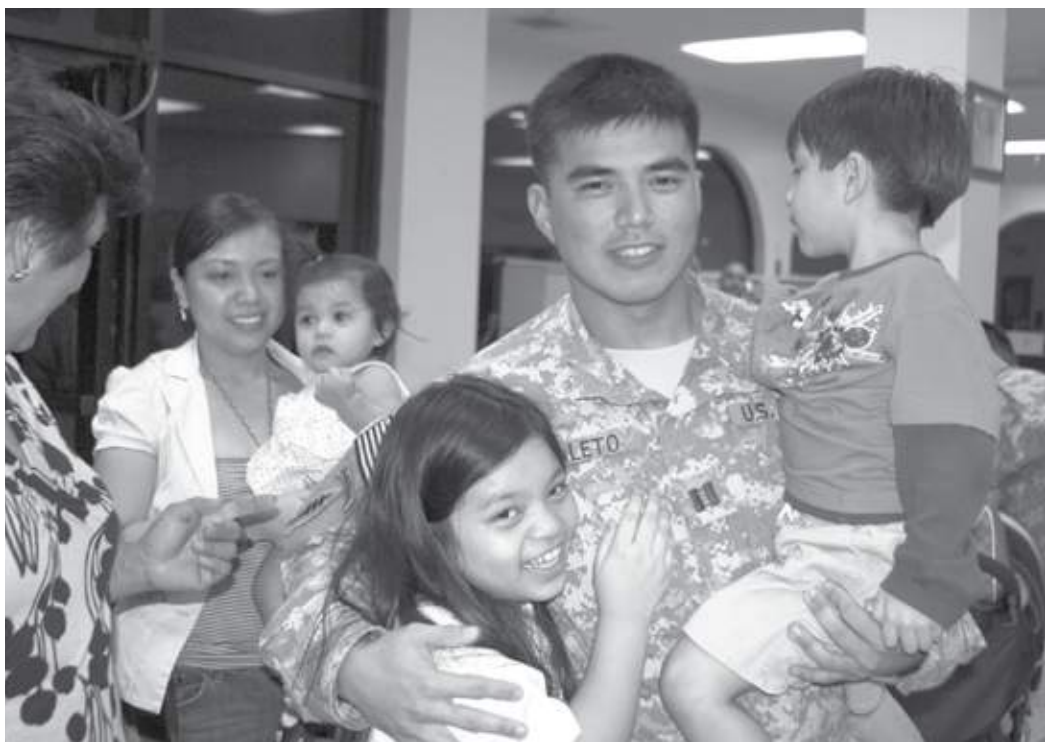

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A soldier from the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, is greeted by family members during a stopover in Guam before proceeding to Hawaii for demobilization.

Guam's Army Guard soldiers set to return

After six months of being deployed to the Southern Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom–Philippines, approximately 30 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, are scheduled to return home Nov. 18.

The soldiers stopped over at Andersen Air Force Base on Nov. 5, on their way to Hawaii, where they will demobilize. During the short stopover, the soldiers were greeted by members of the Guam Army and Air Guard, family members and friends at the Guam Air Guard's 254th REDHORSE building on Andersen. Several leaders of the Guam Guard, including Lt. Gov. Mike Cruz, commander of the Medical Command, were present to greet them.

"Welcome back gentlemen!" said Lt. Col. Diron J. Cruz, the recently appointed Guam Army Guard Chief of Joint Staff. "Thank you for your outstanding services in protecting our island and our nation."

"We look forward to seeing you when you return from demobilization," said Cruz.

The Guam National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, was not able to attend, because he is currently off-island and is scheduled to greet them in Hawaii. He did, however, visit them in the Philippines last month.

The Guam National Guard is a partner with the Republic of the Philippines in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

The 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry also has another company, Team Alpha, currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror. The unit, approximately 180 soldiers total, deployed to Afghanistan early February and is scheduled to demobilize in Hawaii in late November.

The GUARNG also currently has a 14-man Embedded Training Team deployed to Afghanistan to assist in the training of the Afghan National Army and Police. The team deployed to Afghanistan in February and is scheduled to demobilize at Fort Riley, Kansas in late November also.

There are 18 soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, who are deployed with Hawaii's 29th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and are scheduled to demobilize sometime next August.

Additionally, the GUARNG has 14 soldiers augmenting the 33rd BCT from North Carolina for approximately 18 months. They are still participating in Mobilization Station training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, before heading to Afghanistan this month. This team will be providing a variety of duties to include the Task Force Engineer commander, personnel support, logistics support, medical support and security forces.

Finally, there are six GUARNG soldiers currently deployed with the 39th BCT out of Arkansas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, who are scheduled to return this December.

Today, there are approximately 200 Guam Army Guard soldiers and 18 Air Guard Airmen deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom defending our freedom and serving our island and our nation abroad in Afghanistan and Iraq. ***(PR)***

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Villagomez congratulates Faleomavaega for victory

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has offered his congratulations to American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega, who was elected last week to an 11th consecutive term to the U.S. House of Representatives.

"It was not surprising to hear you were elected once again, considering your great leadership and honor for not just the people of American Samoa, but American citizens everywhere including those here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," Villagomez wrote in a letter to Faleomavaega.

He added, "The people of the CNMI have been privileged to have you protecting and looking out for our betterment and welfare."

Faleomavaega and the Fitial-Villagomez administration have worked together on several occasions, most significantly to fight the imposition of federal minimum wage on American Samoa and the Northern Marianas. In January this year, Faleomavaega introduced a bill in the U.S. Congress to modify the federal minimum wage law to allow the U.S. Secretary of Labor to adjust federal wage increases based on an objective determination of their potential impact on the island economies, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Interior and the governments of both the CNMI and American Samoa.

In his letter, Villagomez also urged Faleomavaega to help Gregorio Kilili Sablan as he joins Congress as the CNMI's first non-voting delegate.

"We will always be grateful to your endeavors and dedication in assisting us become a better Commonwealth and look forward to further strengthening our relationship with you through our first ever delegate to the United States Congress, Mr. Gregorio Kilili Sablan. I am confident that your tutelage and guidance will be much appreciated and welcomed by Delegate Sablan," Villagomez said. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Weaver is Judiciary's new buildings super

Gene Weaver recently joined the CNMI Judiciary and will now serve as building superintendent for the courts.

As building superintendent, Weaver will supervise and direct the operation and maintenance of the Guma Hustisia, Rota and Tinian Judicial Centers, and other court facilities. His duties will also include managing court building efficiency, developing plans and programs for maintaining court facilities, and reviewing and assessing means to improve and enhance the productivity and use of court resources.

Weaver states, "I look forward to putting my knowledge, experience and skills to work here at the Guma Hustisia. As the new building superintendent, I am dedicated to the tasks before me and I look forward to the new challenges ahead."

Tracy M. Guerrero, Director of Courts, said: "In the past months the position has been vacant, we have realized exactly how essential the role of building superintendent is to the Judiciary. We are pleased to have Mr. Weaver on board, to keep the courts functioning at their optimum."

A long-time Saipan resident, Weaver spent the past four years with the CNMI Governor's Office Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, during which he wrote grants for several presidential disasters declarations within the CNMI, and received notable success as all 15 grants submitted were approved by FEMA.

A married father of five children, Weaver is an active parent in the Motheread/Fatheread Program. He also serves as president of the Saipan Fishermen's Association, president of Kagman Head Start, vice chair of the Head Start Policy Council, and president of the San Halom I Mamte Fishing Club. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

UP alumni meeting on Sunday

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association–CNMI chapter, UPAA, will hold a get-together on Nov. 23, Sunday, 2pm at the POLO Office on the first floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Bldg.), Susupe, Saipan. All UPAA members and UP alumni are invited to attend. ***(PR)***

Information meeting for IRs of US, FAS citizens

There will be an information meeting for all immediate relatives (IRs) of U.S. citizen spouses (living or deceased), parents and qualified children on Nov. 16, Sunday, at American Memorial Park Theater, inside the American Memorial Park Museum in Garapan. There will also be a meeting for immediate relatives of FAS citizens on the same day at American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

The meeting is being organized by the United Workers Movement, NMI and Mailman & Kara, LLC.

For details, call or text Irene Tantiado at 285 7717, Rabby Syed at 285 3306 or send an email to irenebdi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

KHS calendar of activities

The following is the calendar of activities for Kagman High School:

■ KHS Report Card Day: This is inform all parents and guardians of Kagman High School students that the 1st quarter report card for school year 2008-2009 is set for Thursday, Nov. 20, from 4pm to 6pm. Report cards will be distributed to the students during their 1st period class. Please go to your child's 1st period classroom.

■ KHS PTSA meeting: All parents and guardians are informed of the November PTSA meeting set for Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008 at Kagman High School, from 6pm to 7pm.

For more information call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. ***(PR)***

PTA meeting at SSHS

To all parents and guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6pm in the cafeteria. Also, report cards will be issued from 4pm to 7pm in the Counseling Office. All students will be dismissed at 1pm. ***(PR)***

Vendors for Carolinian Utt

There will be a meeting on Nov. 14, 2008 at 3pm for those interested tourist vendors who want to assist Carolinian Affairs Office with their weekly entertainment at the Carolinian Utt. The scope of work will be discussed. ***(PR)***

Holiday Artists Sale reservations

Spaces are beginning to fill up for the 4th Annual Holiday Artists Sale, which will be held at the Multi-purpose Center on Nov. 29-30. Those who would like to participate may reserve space by contacting Katharyn Tuten-Puckett (tutenpuckett@yahoo.com) or Jeanne Rayphand (jeanneesq@yahoo.com). Reservation fee is $25 for one space; $15 for each additional space. ***(PR)***

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2X4X14 - $5.30	2X4X14 - $7.70
2X4X16 - $6.00	2X4X16 - $8.70
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R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
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R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
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U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
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An Open Letter to the Business Community

Your assistance is requested to make the vision of training residents to become skilled tradesmen a reality. Please join the Founders Guild and make a difference.

Many of our people are not skilled tradesmen. As a result many good paying jobs are not available to them. Also as our non-resident workers are gradually phased out, there will no one to replace them in the trades. Where will the carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters, masons, and all the other necessary trades come from? Who will do this vital work in the construction industry or in our own homes as repairs become necessary? Where will you get your employees?

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute, incorporated in April 2008, is a private non-profit, non-governmental institute to train our local people to become skilled trained tradesmen under professional instructors. We feel that as citizens, we must help to improve not only the economy, but also uplift the skills of our fellow citizens.

While the students are required to pay tuition to attend the school, it is insufficient to sustain the institute during its formative stages. We need your financial assistance.

Please become a member of the Founders Guild. Become one of the leaders in the community who believes in the vision to make possible the employment of local men and women to earn decent wages performing necessary skilled trades. Its time has come. Join with us now.

Please visit our facilities and meet some of the students and instructors. See for yourself what we are doing. The students, instructors, and facilities are ready. Your contribution will make all this happen. Perhaps you may want to sponsor some students. Please call Tony Pellegrino at 287-8310, George Sablan at 285-7410 or Rose Igitol at 235-6684.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2005-2009
(This advertisement is paid for with CDBG funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2005-2009. The amendment provides the inclusion of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) which will be made available to the Commonwealth by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Intended use of the NSP grant is described as follows:

Priority	Activity Type	Use of funds
NSP Purchase	The purchase and rehabilitation of homes and residential properties owned by banks/lending institutions that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon in the various villages of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, in order to sell such homes to eligible Low, Moderate, and Middle-Income homebuyers. [HERA §2301(c)(3)(B)]	At least 90% of NSP funds will be allocated to NSP Purchase and NSP Financing Activities
NSP Financing	Sale of NMHC-owned foreclosed properties in the various villages of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to eligible Low, Moderate, and Middle-Income homebuyers. [HERA §2301(c)(3)(A)]	At least 90% of NSP funds will be allocated to NSP Purchase and NSP Financing Activities
NSP Program and Administration Costs	Program and Administrative Costs	Up to 10% of NSP funds

All NSP funds shall be used to benefit individuals and families whose incomes do not exceed 120 percent of area median income. At least 25% of NSP funds will be used to purchase and rehabilitate homes that will be sold to eligible homebuyers whose incomes are at or below 50 percent of the area median income. The CNMI's income limits for NSP are published at http://www.huduser.org/publications/commdevl/nsp.html under Pacific Islands.

The NSP program also establishes the following affordability requirements:

NSP funds invested per Unit	**Minimum length of the Affordability Period**
Less than $15,000	5 years
$15,000- $40,000	10 years
More than $40,000	15 years

The Amended Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments must be received by NMHC **no later than 4:30 p.m., November 30, 2008, at our designated NMHC branches.** NMHC will be open from 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm on Sunday, November 30, 2008 to receive comments from the public.

NMHC does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment of individuals under its programs or activities. NMHC has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Section 504, the ADA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 504 regulations implemented by the EEOC and the Department of Justice. NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any additional information or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer at 234-6866.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

NMC hosts free info session

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend the Northern Marianas College's free information session which will be held on Nov. 20 (Thursday), at 6pm – 8pm, at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Representatives from different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial aid and admissions staff will be on hand to answer questions. Current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC and will be also be fielding questions.

The event will also provide more information about the CNMI Scholarship Office's new financial assistance for full-time employees looking to enroll part-time at the Northern Marianas College.

Individuals who attend this free information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees *waived* for the Spring 2009 semester. This represents a savings of about $75.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more. Moreover, it offers certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. ***(NMC)***

Calling all CNMI artists

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture said that its Annual Island Artist and Christmas Crafts Exhibit is scheduled to open on Dec. 1, 2008 at the CNMI Gallery for Arts and Culture.

All interested visual, traditional and contemporary artist are encouraged to register and submit their artwork at the Arts Council's office located on Capital Hill next to the post office.

Deadline for submission of artworks will be Friday, Nov. 21,2008. Registration forms are available and participation is free.

For more information, contact Arts Coordinator Lucille Ayuyu or Parker Yobei at (670) 322-9983. ***(PR)***

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Chong, Olaitiman, Sablan shine at OES

Teacher of the Year

Oleai Elementary School is proud to introduce its Teacher of the Year: Jacqueline T. Chong. Chong has been with the turtles for five years, teaching second grade. She has demonstrated her commitment to OES by maintaining perfect attendance for two consecutive years, and has volunteered countless hours to assist in both school and community-sponsored events. Such events includes the Christmas in the Marianas Parade, caroling and costume contests, National Junior Forensic Competition, Primary Grade Forensic Competition, the school's Full Self-Study Visit, and Saturday Reading Program, to name a few.

Teacher Aide of the Year

Connie Olaitiman has been with Oleai Elementary School since 2004 and is an interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. Her involvement is not only in the life of the school's deaf students, but has assisted many general education teachers and students in understanding the deaf culture. She has shared tips and strategies to teach OES students in a way that encourages the general education students to learn, appreciate, and work cooperatively with deaf students.

Her work does not end at the school level. She has also actively coordinated a monthly get-together with the deaf community. Some of the get-togethers include parents participating and learning how to sign, which enable them to communicate with their children.

Support Staff of the Year

Jack T. Sablan has been with OES since 2001. He first started his career with PSS as a 6th grade teacher and was later appointed as the vice principal. As the vice principal, Sablan has taken on a tremendous amount of responsibility that requires flexibility, commitment, dedication, and understanding. Sablan has served as a substitute teacher when a teacher is out sick, has been one of the school's maintenance men when OES is short-handed, as well as the principal whenever the principal is away. He is truly a "Jack" of all trades. Sablan has a commendable record of attendance, which demonstrates his commitment to serving the youth. He is always visible around the campus and makes himself available to parents, teachers, and students. He is actively involved in classroom observations, IEP meetings, PTSA meetings, as well as staff meetings. Sablan is also actively involved in school and community-sponsored events. ***(PSS)***

Arriola, Hosono, Diaz best of the year at GES

Teacher of the Year

Lorraine T. Arriola, a second grade teacher, has been chosen as the Teacher of the Year for Garapan Elementary School.

"I am very honored that the staff and faculty of GES have faith and confidence in the work that I do. As a teacher, I have experienced countless events and opportunities, which have allowed me to continue to learn! If someone told me that I had a choice to be anything in the world—a respected police officer, a rich lawyer, an even richer doctor—I would still choose to be a teacher. I think that being a teacher allows me to be everything: a police officer, a writer, a scientist, a lawyer, a doctor, and more. All I need is an imagination and my students and we could be anything we wanted to be in our little classroom. My main goal is to provide genuine learning tools that students can take with them long after they leave my classroom. I agree 100 percent that teaching is a form of art that allows me to spend my days with the future.

Teacher Aide of the Year

Rose S. Hosono, a Carolinian Bilingual teacher at GES, has been chosen as the school's Teacher Aide of the Year.

"It is an honor to have been chosen by my colleagues as Garapan Elementary School's 'Teacher Aide of the Year.' The selection made me realize how much respect, confidence and trust my colleagues have in me and my role as an educator.

"Education is to help develop the knowledge, skills and character of another. Education can be filled with fun learning experiences. I believe that learning does not stop once you have achieved or reached your goals. Whenever you contemplate or think of a solution you are continuing the Educational process. From the time we are conceived we begin learning; Learning never ends! We learn different things and ways to achieve goals, to answer questions, to approach situations and broaden our knowledge. Our job as educators is to guide, sharpen and help our children develop the tools of learning. As educators, we not only teach our students but we also learn! Learning is lifelong."

Support Staff of the Year

Matilde S. Diaz, the librarian for Garapan Elementary School, is this year's Support Staff of the Year.

"My thoughts and overall feelings regarding education is that, starting to read is the most important aspect of education in order to improve our language acquisition, our communication, and our sharing of information and ideas. My responsibility, as a librarian, is to help kids open books to challenge them, and to help kids learn how to love to read, as well as for entertainment. Books are healthy and wealthy sources of information that gives us new ideas. The wealth of information in books does not come out of the child's pocketbook. An attractive, well-organized book in the library helps kids want to come in to get books to read. Kids can travel around the world through reading books. Therefore, as a librarian, I will always make sure that the library books are readily available to the students, and I am encouraging students to read more often in order for them to be able to reach their grade level test scores." ***(PSS)***

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Judge gives justice to deaf-mute victim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rosa (not her real name), a deaf-mute, just wanted to be heard in court that a man she knows beat her up in her house. The judge listened and believed in her.

After a two-day bench trial, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman yesterday found Rosa's testimony credible and declared Jesus C. Ngeskebei guilty of assault and battery.

Wiseman said the victim's testimony was credible despite inconsistencies due to translation problem. The victim testified using sign language. She was assisted by an interpreter.

The judge determined that, based on the evidence, there initially was consensual sex between Ngeskebei and the victim.

The victim, however, stated that she struggled, but the defendant grabbed her and bit her. Wiseman said the victim was upset and was crying.

The judge said the evidence showed there was no gentle sex, as Ngeskebei described it. Wiseman said the defendant's claim was difficult to believe because of the bite marks on the victim.

Wiseman set the sentencing for the 52-year-old Ngeskebei on Jan. 14, 2009 at 9am.

The Attorney General's Office charged Ngeskebei with assault and battery for hitting the victim in the face on July 27, 2007.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, attorney Joaquin Torres, counsel for the defendant, said they respect the court's decision.

"We do have 30 days to file an appeal if that's the decision of my client. But at this point I still need to discuss my client's intention," Torres said.

Torres said their position is that it was a consensual sexual intercourse and that the judge agreed with that.

Assistant attorney general Rebecca Warfield said it was a just verdict.

"I think we had tremendous challenges to overcome because the victim in this case did have special needs and it requires a lot of patience and a lot of effort to get her story across to the judge," Warfield said.

She said the defendant was known to the victim and in the early morning hours in July 2007 he went to her home and he assaulted her, struck her, bit her, and pulled her hair.

Warfield said the defendant was not charged with sexual assault; however, the government's position is that the defendant used the attack as a means to access the victim sexually.

When the case was initially investigated, the police were trying to communicate with the victim through her brother.

"So that was an opportunity for anyone to hear her voice," Warfield said.

The victim's family got the services of an agency, but the victim couldn't really understand the questions being asked because of the problem with the translator.

"What happened in court with regards to this trial was a patient's opportunity for the victim to be able to explain in her own voice what happened. Because she was very passionate with the sounds that she made, the way she made signs. And anyone seeing her understood her frustration and her effort in trying to get someone to listen, in trying to get someone to understand," she said.

The prosecutor said she commends the family for not giving up and having the case prosecuted.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Motheread Story sharing instructors receive certificates of appreciation in recognition of their contributions to the successes of the Motheread program for the last 10 years. In the picture are Motheread program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero; CNMI Delegate-elect Gregorio C. Sablan, and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's acting director Jenni Rospel during the recognition dinner at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Motheread certified parent trainers at the recognition and appreciation dinner.

Motheread/Fatheread program marks decade

To highlight the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread programs' 10th anniversary, past and present Motheread trainers, story sharing instructors and parent trainers hosted a "Family Literacy Festival" at Dandan Elementary School last Oct. 25, 2008.

The event, held in collaboration with the Public School System, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and NMI Council for the Humanities, showcased the literary talents, creativity and skills of students, parents, teachers from the different schools in the CNMI. It also featured local authors and their works.

The program also held a recognition dinner at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan to honor those who have contributed to the successes of the Motheread/Fatheread program for the last 10 years.

In her opening remarks at the recognition dinner, Viola Deleon Guerrero, Motheread program coordinator, said: "Thank you for your presence and for the opportunity to get together and celebrate your accomplishments over the years. Whether you are here tonight as a sponsor, a partner, a facilitator of parent groups, or a story sharing instructors of young minds, you all have contributed in one way or another in 'Helping Families Learn Together.' Congratulations for all that you do!"

Lyn Tenorio, who was the keynote speaker at the dinner, shared the highlights of the Motheread program and the rewards of bringing to the homes of the CNMI community the "power of story." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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The Management

Business

Congress examines $700 billion rescue program

WASHINGTON (AP)—While the Bush administration shifts course on its $700 billion rescue plan, Congress is examining whether even bigger changes should be made in the program in light of the deteriorating economy and soaring mortgage foreclosures.

The debate may not be resolved until President-elect Barack Obama takes office on Jan. 20 and pursues policies for administering the rescue program that are likely to be more closely aligned with his Democratic allies in Congress.

In anticipation of the change of administrations, Democrats were holding hearings in both the House and Senate on Thursday examining various aspects of the most serious financial crisis to hit the country in 70 years.

The House Oversight Committee was examining the role that hedge funds may have played in recent market turbulence. Among those scheduled to testify was billionaire investor George Soros, chairman of Soros Fund Management.

Meanwhile, the Senate Banking Committee will hear from executives of a number of financial institutions including Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo on the issue of how the government's $700 billion rescue effort is operating and particularly whether the government should be requiring more commitments on the use of the money to address rising mortgage foreclosure problems.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson announced Wednesday that the administration had decided to scrap what had originally been the centerpiece of the program - a proposal to buy troubled assets to get them off the books of banks as a way of promoting increased lending.

Instead, Paulson said the administration will proceed with an alternative plan to spend $250 billion to buy stock in the banks as a way of bolstering their financial situation and accomplishing the same goal - getting the institutions to return to more normal lending.

However, critics contend the administration should be imposing more restrictions on the stock purchases as a way of insuring that the banks will use the government resources to increase lending rather than just hoarding the cash or using it to acquire other banks or boost dividends for stockholders.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said even with the changes in the rescue plan he was still disappointed in the administration's unwillingness to issue strict guidelines to ensure that participating firms use the funds to increase lending.

"In these difficult times, fear is still overwhelming confidence," Schumer told reporters on Tuesday.

More reports detailing the difficulties facing the economy were expected on Thursday with the Labor Department releasing its latest look at weekly applications for unemployment benefits, the Commerce Department reporting on the trade gap for September and the government reporting on the budget deficit for October.

The level of jobless claims was expected to remain at levels indicating the labor market is under severe strains, reflecting what many economists fear could be a deep and prolonged recession.

The government reported last Friday that the unemployment rate soared to a 14-year high of 6.5 percent in October as businesses cut another 240,000 jobs.

The trade deficit was expected to show some improvement, declining to $57 billion in September, compared to $59.1 billion in August, reflecting a big drop in the price of imported oil and a weakening economy, which is dampening demand for other imports.

The budget deficit, however, was expected to show a big increase in October, the first month of the new budget year, rising to $101.5 billion, compared to $57 billion in October 2007. The soaring costs of the bank rescue and the weak economy are expected to put the country on track to run up a record deficit for the current budget year of between $700 billion and $1 trillion, a staggering sum for a single year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls to $55 on grim US economic outlook

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices slid to near $55 a barrel Thursday in Asia as more bad economic news from the U.S. heightened fears of a severe global downturn that will pulverise demand for crude. Light, sweet crude for December delivery was down 81 cents to $55.35 a barrel, after falling as low as $55.03, in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midmorning in Singapore. "There are fears of reduced demand through 2009," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst at consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "Market sentiment is extremely bearish. It seems like there's nothing that can stop the bears." The crude futures contract overnight fell $3.50 to settle at $56.16, the lowest closing price since January 2007, after the U.S. Energy Department slashed its 2009 oil consumption forecast.

Stocks plunge for third straight session

NEW YORK (AP)—An increasingly despondent Wall Street fell for the third straight session Wednesday as investors absorbed another series of dismal corporate reports and news that the government won't buy banks' soured mortgage assets after all. The Dow Jones industrials dropped more than 410 points, and all the major indexes lost more than 4 percent. The stock market has lost about $1 trillion over the past three days, according to the Dow Jones Wilshire 5000 index, which reflects the value of nearly all U.S. stocks. The market started the day falling on more signs that companies are being hurt by a severe pullback in consumer spending. Macy's Inc. said it lost $44 million in the third quarter as sales at the department store retailer fell more than 7 percent. And consumer electronics retailer Best Buy Co. slashed its fiscal 2009 guidance on fears that consumer spending will erode even further.

Intel slashes 4Q outlook in sign of tech downturn

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Intel Corp.'s deep cuts to its fourth-quarter guidance offers further evidence that technology companies are in for a beating because of the economy. The Santa Clara-based company slashed more than $1 billion from its sales forecast and dialed its profit expectations way back. Intel, the world's biggest maker of PC microprocessors with 80 percent of the global market, blamed a clampdown on spending for reducing demand for its chips. The announcement Wednesday after the market closed illuminates how the economic crisis is rippling across industries. As consumers and businesses cut back on buying all kinds of things, their reduced purchases of PCs are harming computer makers and their suppliers. Wall Street got an early glimpse of the severity of damage to the technology sector last week.

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Nation

Palin leaves door open for possible Senate run

WASHINGTON (AP)—Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin said Wednesday she would consider serving in the Senate if God gave her the opportunity and Alaskans wanted her to take the job. The state's senior senator, Republican Ted Stevens, fell behind as the count resumed in his re-election bid.

Stevens, who has been in the Senate for 40 years, led by more than 3,000 votes when the Election Day count ended last week. He dropped 814 votes behind his Democratic challenger, Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich, early Thursday as Alaska election officials began tabulating an estimated 90,000 absentee and provisional ballots. Tens of thousands of ballots remained to be counted.

Even if he is re-elected, Stevens could be ousted by the Senate for his conviction on seven felony counts of failing to report more than $250,000 in gifts, mostly renovations on his home. If Stevens loses his seat, Palin could run for it in a special election. She also could challenge incumbent GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski in 2010.

Palin

Palin, who was the GOP vice presidential nominee, has two years left on her term as governor. She told CNN's Wolf Blitzer on Wednesday that she wants to serve her constituents the best she can. "At this point it is as governor," she said.

"Now if something shifted dramatically and if it were, if it were acknowledged up there that I could be put to better use for my state in the U.S. Senate, I would certainly consider that but that would take a special election and everything else," she said. "I am not one to appoint myself or a member of my family to take the place of any vacancy."

Pressed in a separate interview with CNN's Larry King about whether she would serve out her term as governor, Palin said, "I will do what the people of Alaska want me to do."

She added, however, "if they call an audible on me, and if they say they want me in another position, I'm going to do it. ... My life is in God's hands. If he's got doors open for me, that I believe are in our state's best interest, the nation's best interest, I'm going to go through those doors."

After Calif. loss, gays get the right to wed in Conn.

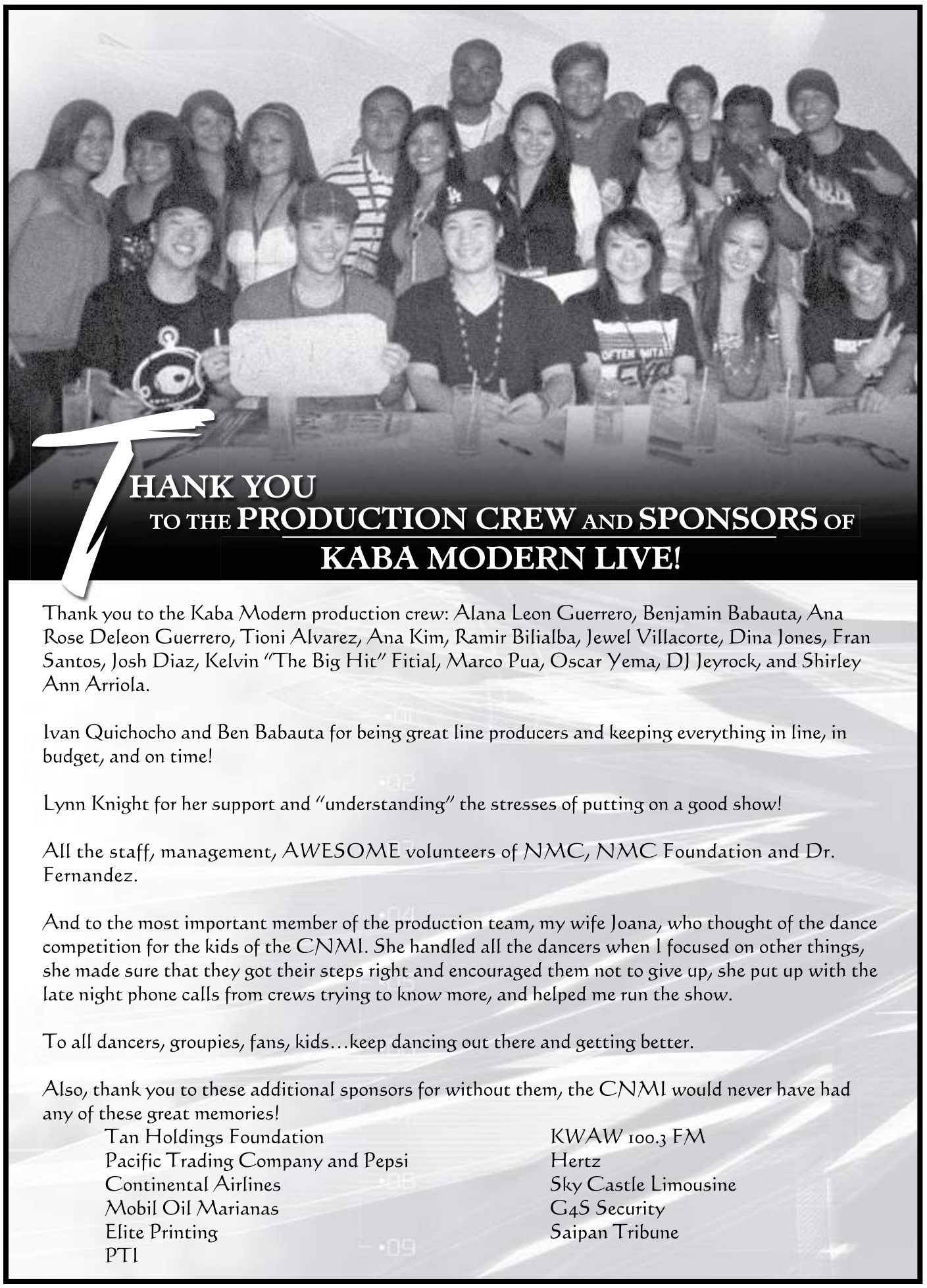
WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Same-sex couples exchanged vows Wednesday for the first time in Connecticut amid cheers and tears of joy, while gay activists planned protests across the country over the vote that took away their right to marry in California.

Surrounded by red roses and smiles, Jody Mock and Elizabeth Kerrigan, who led the lawsuit that that overturned the state law, emerged from West Hartford's town hall to the cheers of about 150 people and waved their marriage license high.

"We feel very fortunate to live in the state of Connecticut, where marriage equality is valued, and hopefully other states will also do what is fair," Kerrigan said.

The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled 4-3 on Oct. 10 that same-sex couples have the right to wed rather than accept a 2005 civil union law designed to give them the same rights as married couples. A lower-court judge entered a final order permitting same-sex marriage Wednesday morning. Massachusetts is the only other state that allows gay marriages.

Gay marriage advocates said they were planning nationwide demonstrations this weekend in more than 175 cities and outside the U.S. Capitol. A Seattle blogger was trying to organize simultaneous protests outside statehouses and city halls in every state Saturday.



Thank you to the Kaba Modern production crew: Alana Leon Guerrero, Benjamin Babauta, Ana Rose Deleon Guerrero, Tioni Alvarez, Ana Kim, Ramir Bilialba, Jewel Villacorte, Dina Jones, Fran Santos, Josh Diaz, Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, Marco Pua, Oscar Yema, DJ Jeyrock, and Shirley Ann Arriola.

Ivan Quichocho and Ben Babauta for being great line producers and keeping everything in line, in budget, and on time!

Lynn Knight for her support and "understanding" the stresses of putting on a good show!

All the staff, management, AWESOME volunteers of NMC, NMC Foundation and Dr. Fernandez.

And to the most important member of the production team, my wife Joana, who thought of the dance competition for the kids of the CNMI. She handled all the dancers when I focused on other things, she made sure that they got their steps right and encouraged them not to give up, she put up with the late night phone calls from crews trying to know more, and helped me run the show.

To all dancers, groupies, fans, kids…keep dancing out there and getting better.

Also, thank you to these additional sponsors for without them, the CNMI would never have had any of these great memories!

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ACROSS THE NATION

US general urges Obama to keep missile defense

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force general who runs the Pentagon's missile defense projects said Wednesday that American interests would be "severely hurt" if President-elect Obama decided to halt plans developed by the Bush administration to install missile interceptors in Eastern Europe. Lt. Gen. Henry A. Obering III, director of the Missile Defense Agency, told a group of reporters that he is awaiting word from Obama's transition team on their interest in receiving briefings. During the campaign, Obama was not explicit about his intentions with regard to missile defense. The program has tended to draw less support from Democrats over the years, particularly during the Reagan presidency when it was seen as a "Star Wars" effort to erect an impenetrable shield against nuclear missile attack from the Soviet Union. More recently the project has been scaled back, although it has again created an East-West divide by stirring Russian opposition to the proposed European link.

GOP governors say party's future rests with them

MIAMI (AP)—Republican governors, down and out after the party's devastating Election Day losses, said Wednesday that the future of the GOP rests with their ranks and not Washington politicians. "Republican governors are the only people who can propose and implement Republican policies," said Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour. "For America to see that Republican policies work, they're going to see it in states with Republican governors. That's always the way it is when you're the minority and the other party has the White House." Republicans are doing some soul-searching after losing the White House and seeing their numbers decrease in the Senate and House. Many in the GOP are looking to their governors, who gathered in Florida for a three-day meeting, for a fresh direction for the party and the best prospects for winning the presidency in 2012.

Disgraced pastor Haggard: I was abused as child

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Disgraced evangelical pastor Ted Haggard says he was sexually abused as a child and that the experience "started to rage in my mind and in my heart" when he was caught up in a sex scandal involving a male prostitute. Haggard made the remarks in two recent sermons in Morrison, Ill., ABC's "Good Morning America" reported Wednesday. Haggard said one of his father's employees "had a sexual experience with me" when Haggard was 7, according to audio recordings of the sermons posted on the ABC News Web site. Haggard said he later became "a conservative Republican, loving the word of God, an evangelical, born-again, spirit-filled, charismatic, all those things. "But some of the things that were buried in the depths of the sea from when I was in the second grade started to rage in my mind and in my heart," he said.

Asia

Chen's fall tests Taiwan independence activists

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The downfall of the former Taiwanese president, captured in striking images of the ex-leader being led away to jail, has called into question whether his pro-independence movement has been sidelined as a vibrant political force.

Chen

As Taiwan's leader from 2000 to May 2008, Chen Shui-bian made formal independence from China a sacred cause—doing everything he could to emphasize its political and cultural separateness from China, from which it split amid civil war in 1949.

The question now is whether Chen's detention Wednesday on corruption charges is a sufficiently serious blow to render the pro-independence movement a spent force—or whether it can yet recover from its leader's fall from grace.

A Taipei court ordered Chen held under a type of pre-indictment detention after prosecutors accused him of laundering money and illegally tapping a special fund during his presidency. His detention started dramatically Tuesday when he was led away in handcuffs from a prosecutors' office, taken to court, then sent to jail in early Wednesday.

The nearly 21 hours of legal proceedings were interrupted briefly when Chen was taken to the hospital after complaining he had been injured while being transported from the prosecutors' office to the nearby court building.

Chen has denied any wrongdoing, and his lawyer, Cheng Wen-lung, said Thursday the former leader has begun a hunger strike "to protest the death of justice and the regression of democracy."

Chen has not eaten since he arrived at the jail the day before and was determined to continue the strike, Cheng said. Prison official Lee Ta-chu said only that his institution was monitoring the situation.

The detention marks a further downfall for a landmark figure in Taiwanese politics and a pro-independence advocate.

Already put off by widespread reports of Chen's corruption and China's threats to attack if his pro-independence line were ever implemented, Taiwanese voters pummeled his Democratic Progressive Party in two votes earlier this year. They elected rival Ma Ying-jeou president, and propelled Ma's Nationalist Party to a dominating victory in the legislature.

A key to the Nationalist victories was Ma's promise to harness Taiwan's laggard economy to China's growth juggernaut. Rejecting Chen's policy of keeping China at arms length, Ma said that Taiwan should open regular direct air and sea links with the mainland—they were broken in 1949—and reduce existing trade and investment barriers between the sides.

Since his inauguration six months ago, Ma has worked hard to carry his promises out. Investment restrictions were the first to go, and just last week, during a historic visit to Taipei by senior Chinese envoy Chen Yunlin, pacts were signed to triple the volume of flights across the 100-mile wide Taiwan Strait and sanction the first direct shipping links in almost 60 years.

But as Chen Yunlin himself learned during his trip, a substantial residue of anti-Chinese sentiment—and pro-independence activism—still remains in many areas of Taiwan. Hundreds of demonstrators dogged him throughout Taipei, and thousands marched in the city's streets to protest his efforts to bring Taiwan and China closer together economically.

Beijing insists Taiwan is part of Chinese territory and has threatened war if the island of 23 million people moves to make its 59-year break with the mainland permanent.

Political scientist Chu Chao-hsiang of Taiwan's National Taiwan Normal University said that Chen's arrest will have a negative impact on the independence movement in the short term, but that the damage will not endure.

ASIAN BRIEFS

North Korea rejects request for nuclear sampling

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Wednesday it will not allow outside inspectors to take samples from its main nuclear complex to verify the communist regime's accounting of past nuclear activities. Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it never agreed to such sampling, contradicting statements by U.S. officials last month following a breakthrough deal about how to verify a list of nuclear programs submitted by North Korea in June under a disarmament pact. The North's conflicting statements could prove a new snag in the long, tortured process of nuclear disarmament on the Korean peninsula. North Korea has agreed to give up its nuclear weapons but has bickered with the U.S. over verification, with Washington insisting on strict measures to ensure Pyongyang is not hiding any active atomic programs. South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan said Thursday that the North's latest refusal could be a ploy to secure more aid for the deeply impoverished country.

US aid worker shot dead near Pakistan tribal areas

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen shot and killed an American as he was traveling to work for a U.S.-funded aid program aimed at chipping away support for al-Qaida and Taliban militants in Pakistan's lawless tribal regions. Stephen Vance was killed along with his Pakistani driver in an upscale neighborhood of Peshawar, a sprawling and increasingly lawless city on the eastern edge of northwestern tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. While there was no claim of responsibility, suspicion fell on Taliban- and al-Qaida-linked militants under fire from Pakistani military operations in the tribal areas as well as a surge in unilateral U.S. missile attacks on the region. The border region is a possible hiding place for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri. Militants have found a safe haven there, using it as a staging ground for attacks on U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan as well as within Pakistan.

Bomb strikes US convoy in Afghanistan; 58 wounded

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A car bomb struck a U.S. military convoy in eastern Afghanistan Thursday, wounding 57 civilians and an American soldier, U.S. and Afghan officials said. The attack happened outside Jalalabad, the capital of the eastern Nangarhar province, said Army Sgt. First Class Joel Peavy. Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, spokesman for the provincial governor, said the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber in the city's Bati Kot district. One American soldier was wounded in the blast, Peavy said. Of the 57 civilians wounded, 40 were hospitalized and 17 were treated and released, said Ajmal Pardes, a health official for Nangarhar province. Taliban militants regularly use suicide attackers and car bombs in their assaults against U.S., Afghan and other foreign troops in the country.

Thank You

The count is over and we are proud to announce the top three schools that brought in the most supporters for the Pink Ribbon Candle Light Vigil Parade that was held last Wednesday, October 29th, 2008:

1st Place $300.00 Kagman Elementary School PTA
2nd Place $150.00 Grace Christian Academy
3rd Place $100.00 San Vicente Elementary School PTA

In Appreciation for all the contribution and support we were given for the 2008 Breast Cancer awareness month activities, we would like to thank the following:

Partners:

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Ayuda Network Inc.
NMC-CREES
Diabetes Prevention and Control Program
Bureau of Environmental Health
Community Guidance Center

Donors:

First Lady Foundation (Mrs. Josie Fitial)
Commonwealth Cancer Association
Department of Public Safety
Sorensen Pacific Broadcasting, Inc. (Ms. Tina Palacios)
Big Boy'z II Marine (Mr. Masanari Yasuda)
Saipan Ice & Water Company (Mr. Anthony Pelegrino)
Saipan Mayor's Office (Mayor Juan Tudela, Mr. Joe Tenorio)
Congressman Edward Salas
Congressman Diego Benavente
Congresswoman Rosemond Santos
Congressman Ramon Tebuteb

Volunteers:

Maggie Camacho
Jack Hardy
Bobbi Grizzard
Bobbie Ayres
Bud White
Donna White
Frances Chaine
Janice Wabol
John Tagabuel
Joseph Villagomez
Lynn Tenorio
Stephanie Tagabuel
Donald Manalo
Fernando Benavente
Neda Camacho
Claudine Camacho
Joserin Mendiola
NMC Nursing

Participants:

Breast Cancer Survivors
Family Violence Task Force/ Lugat Pas
Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition
Division of Environmental Quality

All the public and private schools and community members who supported the 2008 Breast Cancer awareness month.

Thank You For Your Support and Let the Fight Against Breast Cancer Continue On…

Women for Jesus

Conference
Women For Jesus 2008

"Women Imparting to Women"
November 14-15, 2008

Friday (November 14) @ Grace Christian Assembly,
Navy Hill - Time: 7:00 pm

Saturday (November 15) @ PIC, Charley's Cabaret
Time: 10:00 am - Lunch: $15.00

Main Speaker: Pastor Gail Kamakahi

Gail Kamakahi and her husband, George, are founders and senior pastors of Thy Word Ministries, Inc. The ministry has churches based in Hawaii, Las Vegas, Saipan and several affiliations in the Philippines. Pastor Gail has also conducted "Women for Jesus" Conferences since 1983.

Pastor Gail is an ordained minister and has been in the pastoral ministry for over 27 years. Her prophetic insight into the Word of God is an inspiration as she ministers to her congregation and at various conferences. Her messages emphasize relationship with the Lord and prayer. She teaches the truth of God's Word with practical revelation and application.

Please sign up early if you will attending the PIC WFJ Conference because space is limited! These conferences will bless your life and take you to another level in the things of God.

You will not be the same!

For more information contact:
Joyce Palacios @ 234-3720
Rose White @ 234-7219
Vivian Trinidad @ 288-0328
Connie Kenny @ 285-4904
Bobbie Solberg @ 288-4556
Email: bsolberg@saipan.com

World

Inspired by Obama, European minorities take action

PARIS (AP)—An Obama effect is rippling across Europe.

In France, a pro-Barack Obama grassroots group created months ago is morphing into a campaign for political diversity. In Britain, a black voter group says it is inundated with calls and attendance is soaring.

In Austria, a Rwandan-born activist has fired off letters to big parties urging them to field minority candidates. And in Germany, the staff of Turkish politician Cem Ozdemir started a Facebook group called "Yes we Cem"—a takeoff on Obama's slogan "Yes we can."

Obama's victory is inspiring hopes and even planting the seeds of action for changing the overwhelming whiteness of Europe's political elite. But it's unclear whether these efforts will pay off or merely fizzle. Although polls showed majorities in nearly every European country favored Obama over John McCain, many say Europe is far from voting for a leader from an ethnic minority itself.

Of course, the victory of the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas has brought hope to many parts of the developing world. But in places like Britain and France, which have long prided themselves on their democracies, it has also emphasized how far their governments are from reflecting racial diversity today.

Europe and the relatively young United States have vastly different histories when it comes to race.

The United States is a lot more diverse: Minorities now make up about a third of all Americans. By comparison, the Interior Ministry in Germany says "foreigners" made up about 8.2 percent of the population in 2006. And anti-discrimination groups estimate that blacks and people of North African origin—mostly from former colonies—make up at least 10 percent of France. Neither country collects official statistics on race.

Yet only 10 lawmakers in Germany's 613-seat lower house of parliament come from minority backgrounds. And in France, the lower house of parliament has just one black lawmaker among 555 elected from the French mainland.

"The vote for Obama rings as a critique of politics in France as sclerotic, old and tired—and not just here," said Faycal Douhane, a Socialist of Algerian heritage who leads an association of mayors in the Paris area. "It's embarrassing for France."

Obama's victory was particularly resonant in France. A group formed in a cafe months ago as the Friends of Barack Obama in the southeastern city of Lyon is renaming itself "The Movement" to lobby political parties to select minority candidates. It also plans to write up and send a report to President Nicolas Sarkozy by year-end on France's lack of political diversity.

Spokesperson Azedine Haffar said France's stance that all of its citizens are simply French holds minorities back.

"There was a before Nov. 4, and an after Nov. 4," he said. "And those who want to stay in the before, we can tell them: 'No, it's finished. This era is over.'"

Malek Boutih, who oversees social issues at France's main opposition Socialist Party, said he plans to use a major party congress this week to deliver a message: "Let minorities join the political fight and gain responsibility."

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
EMERGENCY POWER UPGRADES
AIP PROJECT NO. 3-69-0002-57
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Construction of the Saipan International Airport Emergency Power Upgrade on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the intent of CPA to expedite complete construction of this project.

A CD-Rom containing the scope of work and proposal package will be available on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each CD-Rom. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held for this project at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, at the CPA Airport Conference Room. Please be advised that attendance to this pre-proposal conference is mandatory. All questions prior to the pre-proposal conference must be submitted in writing to Mr. Ignacio L. Perez, Acting Executive Director or faxed to (670) 234-5962, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, November 10, 2008.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Emergency Power Upgrade, Design/Build Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008,** to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The offerer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest
2. Project Approach (detailing how the work will be accomplished inclusive of layout and one line diagram.)
3. D-B Construction Team
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications if available)
5. Design and Construction Timeline
6. Available resources to accomplish the project
7. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format)
8. Valid CNMI Business License

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

Project approach, timeline and cost must be within the parameters of the established Statement of Work (SOW). Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for design and construction	30%
2.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	10%
3.	Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	15%
4.	D-B Construction time frame	25%
5.	Project Approach	20%

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Award of a contract is contingent upon prior approval from FAA.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax. Proposers shall also include performance and payment bonds premium (payment and performance issued by a U.S. treasury listed bonding company) required for this project. Performance bond shall be extended to cover the warranty period of the project.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Acting Executive Director

Date: November 11, 2008

Iran tests missile–Israel in easy reach

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said it successfully test-fired a new generation of long range surface-to-surface missile on Wednesday—one that could easily strike Israel and as far away as southeastern Europe with greater precision than earlier models.

The Sajjil is a solid fuel high-speed missile with a range of about 1,200 miles, Defense Minister Mostafa Mohammed Najjar said on state television.

Solid-fuel missiles are more accurate than the liquid fuel missiles of similar range currently possessed by Iran. The country has had a solid-fuel missile with a shorter range—the Fateh, able to fly 120 miles—for several years.

The defense minister, quoted by Iran state television, said the two-stage missile with two solid-fuel engines has "an extraordinary high capability" but gave no further details. He did not say whether it was capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

With its range, the missile could easily strike Iran's archfoe Israel and go as far as southeastern Europe.

The U.S. military and intelligence agencies observed the missile test on a range about 225 miles southeast of Tehran Wednesday through "national assets," a reference to classified imagery satellites and other kinds of sensors.

A senior U.S. military official contended the missile flew for just 9 seconds, covering 180 miles before veering off. The missile then exploded but it was unclear whether it was a malfunction or if it was programmed to self-destruct, the official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.

The U.S. believes the launch tested the first stage of what would be a two-stage rocket. Iran tested the same rocket last year without apparent success, the official said.

Najjar said the missile was a defensive weapon and not a response to threats against Iran. He didn't name any country, but Israel has recently threatened to take military action against Iran to stop Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb.

Najjar said the missile was part of a "defensive, deterrent strategy ... specifically with defensive objectives."

Israel's Foreign Ministry refused comment about the missile test.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cuba replaces foreign investment minister Lomas

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba replaced its foreign investment minister Wednesday in a high-profile Cabinet change, but did not explain the move. A statement read during the communist island's nightly newscast said the Communist Party's Politburo "decided to liberate" Marta Lomas from the position. It did not give a reason, and it was not clear if she will take on a new governmental role. She will be replaced by former U.N. Ambassador Rodrigo Malmierca, whom the statement praised as an experienced diplomat and leader. The 24-member Politburo is headed by Fidel Castro, 82 years old and ailing, who stepped down from the presidency in February in favor of his younger brother Raul.

Mexican court upholds moderate leftist's victory

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A Mexican court upheld a moderate's victory in disputed leadership elections that deeply split the country's main leftist party two years after it nearly won the presidency. The Federal Electoral Court's ruling Wednesday, which is final, favored Jesus Ortega, who is at odds with former presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador over whether the Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD, should cooperate with the government. Lopez Obrador claims that President Felipe Calderon of the conservative National Action Party stole the 2006 election through fraud and insists the PRD should treat the government as illegitimate. He has the support of Alejandro Encinas, who had challenged Ortega for the PRD leadership.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB # 09-003

The Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop & Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Saipan Southern High School (SSHS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-003" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **December 15, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-003" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or single to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part.. if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB # 09-002

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for **One (1) Year Campus Security Services for Marianas High School Campus and properties** on the island of Saipan located in the CNMI. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB # 09-002" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than November 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB # 09-002, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original with 3-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*** Technical questions, in order to ensure consideration, shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the deadline for submission of bids.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone number 237-3062.

The Public School System reserves the night to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano, segun i LaiPubliko 15-2, ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Tinian, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot i mapropopone na planonuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

1. I tineteka na tano publiko inembrarasa 300 hegtarias. Trabiha ti mamimide este na lugat lao i uminteres umadelanta este na tano publiko pot para u hatsaye casino hotel yan primera na golf course giya Piña, Tinian.. Kopian lugat este na sitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu i publiku.
2. I para u inatkilai era i Neo Goldwings Paradise, un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha i sigiente: Hyun Myung In, presidente/tresurario yan Kwidong Woo, segundo presidente yan sekretario.
3. I mapropopone na atkilon tano publiko manegosio as Señor Kwidong Woo.
4. I para u atkila i lugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel casino, golf course yan otro siha na fasilidat.

   I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.
5. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.
6. I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Piña, Tinian.
7. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Novembre 24, 2008 gi todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Tchúlúyól, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ye ebwe elebwughúw toria (300 hectares), iye rebwe tilifischi ghatchúw bwelle investors rebwe ayúúw leliyel casino me golf resort iye e ghil ngáli bwuleyil Pina mewóól Tchúlúyól elapeló me ngáre eghús. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ye Tchúlúyól ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corporation d.b.a. NGP Casino and Hotel. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Myung In Hyun me Kwidong Woo.

   Samwoolul (President/Treasurer) corporation nge Myung In Hyun. Vice President me Sekkretório nge Kwidong Woo.

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Kwidong Woo.

iv. Schóól akkilon nge ebwe ayúúw me mwóghutáágheli casino mellól hotel me golf resort me akkááw wiisal(fasilidóód).

   Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

   Pomwol akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél faluw (value of the property).

v. Emmwel bwe tilighial akkilon yeel óubwe bwughil mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Piña, Tchúlúyól.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal schagh Nobiembre (November) 24, 2008 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyol.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

The Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent, under Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, to lease certain public lands on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is about 300 hectares that has yet to be surveyed to which investor plans to lease for purposes of building a casino hotel and golf resort situated in the Piña Area on Tinian. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for review.

ii. The prospective lessee is Neo Goldwings Paradise, Co. Ltd. a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Hyun Myung In, president/treasurer and Kwidong Woo, vice president/secretary.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Kwidong Woo.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a casino hotel and golf resort and related facilities.

   The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

   The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land at Piña, Tinian.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before November 24, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man allegedly attacks girlfriend over macaroni

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP)—An unemployed man faces a domestic assault charge after he allegedly attacked his girlfriend last Saturday for making him macaroni for dinner. Investigator Dale Matuszczak said the woman called for help after locking herself in a bathroom. Matuszczak said she apparently had been hit with a cooking pot, suffering a cut on her nose and bruise on her face. According to the police report, the man was intoxicated and assaulted the woman when he discovered she made macaroni for his dinner. Food was tossed around the house as he hit the woman with the pot. The man was arrested and charged with second-degree domestic assault.

Old threads: Wis. man creates mammoth twine ball

SUPERIOR, Wis. (AP)—Jim Kotera said the challenge hit almost three decades ago and got the ball rolling, so to speak. He heard of people claiming to have amassed the largest ball of twine in the world and decided to beat them. Kotera told Superior's online newspaper, The Daily Telegram, that he started his twine ball April 3, 1979. It now stands about as tall as he does. He's weighed the twine as he added it, including the bags of string saved for him by friends and neighbors, and he estimates the ball weighs just under 20,000 pounds. If it could be unraveled, he claims it would stretch from northern Wisconsin to the Wyoming border. Kotera, who lives in the town of Highland near Lake Nebagamon, has worked at the Highland dump for nearly 30 years.

Man tosses items under car after traffic stop

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A routine traffic stop led to the arrest of two Memphis men on burglary charges after the passenger began surreptitiously tossing things under their car. According to a police report, the officer making the stop was talking to the driver when he noticed that the passenger had opened his door a bit and was acting a little odd. Looking under the car, the officer spotted a gold bracelet and several rings. That led to a search of the car which turned up an Ipod, an Ipod docking station and other items that were reported taken in a residential burglary earlier in the day. The car's driver and his passenger were arrested on burglary and theft charges.

Man's untimely nap damages church's organ pipes

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (AP)—This isn't music to anyone's ears: The restoration of a church's 130-year-old organ has been delayed because four delicate pipes were damaged when a visitor napped on them. The 18-foot pipes were among about 50 stored in the basement at First Churches in Northampton during the sanctuary's renovation. The Rev. Peter Ives estimates the damage at close to $15,000. But he says the organ can be played without the pipes. Ives says the church will not press charges. The man apparently mistook the pipes for rolled-up rugs and slept on them. He is a homeless man who was in the church for a job counseling meeting. The congregation traces its history to the 17th century, and was home to 18th century preacher Jonathan Edwards.

Ohio gym hit by thieves who take boxing ring

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Boxers have long complained about being robbed in the ring. Well, now the ring itself has been stolen. The ring at Glass City Boxing was swiped sometime Sunday, WNWO-TV reported. Trainer Tom Urbina said if the ring is not returned the gym may have to cancel upcoming boxing shows. The ring has been used since the 1970s by numerous local fighters including Devin Vargas, a heavyweight who made the 2004 U.S. Olympic team. Urbina is urging anyone with information on the ring's whereabouts to contact Toledo police.

Cambodian Buddhists abuzz about Buddha hive

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP)—The Cambodian Buddhist community in Rochester is abuzz over what they believe is a miracle: a wasp nest in the shape of a seated Buddha built in the eaves of their temple. The nest was spotted last week. Elder members of the community say they have never seen an apparition of the Buddha in their lifetimes. Seventy-year-old Voeun Sor of Rochester says the hive shows the Buddha is trying to tell everybody to seek peace in their lives. Robert Jeanne is an entomology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He says the Buddha-shaped hive could actually be four different nests formed over a couple of years. He says if someone wants to read miracles into that, that's their privilege. Moeun Ngop is a 76-year-old monk. He has a more mystical take. He says the insects are trying to communicate Buddha's message.

Man allegedly steals communion wafers from priest

JENSEN BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Police in said they arrested a Connecticut man after he tried to steal communion wafers during a church service. The Martin County Sheriff's Office said 33-year-old John Samuel Ricci, of Canton, was cornered by fellow churchgoers when he grabbed a handful of wafers from the priest during communion services Saturday. The Stuart News reported that Ricci was being held down by six or seven offended parishioners when deputies arrived at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Jensen Beach. Police say two parishioners, ages 82 and 61, received minor injuries in the scuffle. Ricci was charged with two counts of simple battery, theft and disruption of a religious assembly. He was being held Tuesday on $2,000 bond at the Martin County Jail.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DCCA CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS
(Tinian and Rota Only)

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be accepting new applications for Child Care and Development Fund (Child Care Program) for the islands of Tinian and Rota only starting from Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008 to Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008 between 8:00am to 4:00pm. Applications may be picked up at:

Rota DCCA Main Office with contact no: 532-0354
Tinian Gym with contact no: 433-9330

Requirements:
Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent two pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI Provide one of the following documents
   a. House Rental/ Mortgage
   b. Utility Receipt
   c. Telephone Receipt
   d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification
6. Child support statement/stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportu nity Act (PRWORA)
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

Relative Care

1. Application for Child Care Provider
2. Business License
3. W9 Tax form (if new business)
4. Health Certificate
5. Police Clearance
6. Map of business site (house)

Center Based

1. Fee for day care service

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-4550 • Fax: (670) 664-4560

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the CNMI State Advisory Group (SAG), also known as the "Youth Advisory Council" (YAC) of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold an Award Meeting on **Friday, November 21, 2008, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., Napu Conference Room, Pacific Island Club, Saipan**

AGENDA

I. **Call to order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda**
IV. **Review and Adoption of Minutes** *(Award Meeting - August 23, 2007)*
V. **Old Business**
VI. **New Business**
- Chairman's Overview, *Edward Manibusan*
- Executive Director's *Report, Jerome Ierome*
- Awarding of 2007-2008 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants
  - Title II Formula Grant
  - Title V Grant
  - Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)
  - Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant (EUDL)

VII. **Announcements**
- Next Meeting

VIII. **Adjournment**

Should you need more information, please call the CJPA office.

/s/Mr. Edward Manibusan
Chairperson
CJPA Youth Advisory Council

/s/Mr. Jerome I. Ierome
Executive Director
CJPA

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant 2006-JF-FX-0045 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice.

Science & Technology

Which Web browser do you click with?

By ALEX BALDINGER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

We've had two months to try out Chrome, Google's foray into the world of Web browsers, and what's clear is that there's a full-fledged battle for the hearts and minds of Internet surfers. It's a high-stakes game, with losers often left as mere technological footnotes: Remember Netscape Navigator? We took six of the most popular free browsers for a test drive:

CHROME

We all know Google will eventually control the universe, and Chrome is the next stage in the quest.

Forward: The "incognito" mode, which prevents the browser from recording your searches, is handy for off-the-record browsing and helpfully pops open a distinct dark-blue-bordered window whenever it's in use. But be warned: It won't prevent your IT department from spying on you at work. Thumbnail images of your nine most-visited pages are displayed whenever you open a tab. (This technique was introduced to Web users with Opera's Speed Dial.) Users can also designate multiple pages to launch as tabs when the browser opens.

Stop: Chrome is in Beta testing, so it still has kinks: The browser freezes for several seconds frustratingly often. Some critics have concerns that Google is watching what Chrome users are searching for, but if you're someone who can't live without Gmail, odds are you'll want to Chrome up.

FIREFOX

Nearly four years after it showed the world that Internet Explorer wasn't the only way to browse, Mozilla's Firefox still provides an adaptive, innovative experience that's tough to top.

Forward: Mozilla encourages its users to create add-ons for Firefox, which are small pieces of software that expand functionality. Want a Speed Dial-type feature such as Opera's or Chrome's? A free add-on does it for you. Ever accidentally closed your browser with six tabs open? Firefox helpfully prompts you to save before doing this; the next time you open Firefox, you'll be back where you left off.

Stop: That last part about add-ons throw you off? Some users won't appreciate the change-it-yourself nature of Firefox, preferring a browser with the pre-loaded features of Chrome or Opera.

FLOCK

"The social web browser" is built from Firefox's template and caters to social networkers who want to access their various Web 2.0 accounts simultaneously.

Forward: For those deep into the Flickr-Twitter-Blogger-Facebook (Flitterblook?) community, Flock uses the left side of the browser window to display friend lists, status updates, e-mail and RSS feeds. The Flickr mini-bar occupies the top of the screen and displays photos posted by friends on any site you're signed in to. Flock's blogging tool lets users post entries from any browser window, so you don't have to navigate to the blog's home page.

Stop: When using all of the features, toolbars occupy more of the screen than regular Web content: It renders the information-gathering function of the Web an afterthought. If anything, Flock helps users procrastinate, with the constant distraction of media harming the browser's ability to make life on the Web easier.

INTERNET EXPLORER

Internet Explorer 7 was highly uninspiring; with Version 8, the makers of the world's most popular browser (in terms of market share) still have work to do.

Forward: Add-ons finally make an appearance in the IE universe, as Microsoft gives users room to innovate. Credit the developers for advancing the concept of tabbed browsing by automatically grouping tabs by subject. IE 8 also adds tools called Accelerators, which let users take information such as a business address from one page and enter it on another site, such as Mapquest, with a single click.

Stop: Like Chrome, IE 8 is in beta test mode; unlike Chrome, it feels like it. Many features, such as Web Slices—a tool designed to monitor specified sites for updates so users can track changes without having to visit the site—are difficult to configure and use. If the goal of a browser is to let people customize their Web experience, why does IE 8 pester users to enable certain features that were intentionally disabled?

OPERA

This is the best browser that most people haven't heard of. It has all the functionality of its peers with none of the fanfare. There's even a mini version for mobile phones.

Forward: Opera's Speed Dial feature is difficult to live without; you select your favorite sites, and the browser catalogs thumbnails of them whenever you open a new tab. Veteran file sharers will love the built-in BitTorrent downloader, great for downloading media. And if you use Opera on multiple devices, Opera Link automatically syncs your Speed Dial choices, bookmarks and search history.

Stop: Because of Opera's relative obscurity, some popular Web sites don't completely work with it. For example, updating Yahoo Sports Fantasy Football rosters relies on a series of outdated pull-down menus that most other browsers have long outgrown.

SAFARI

Apple acolytes will love this; everyone else will wonder what all the fuss is about.

Forward: Apple has earned a reputation for making software that simply ... works. Safari is no exception. Pages seem to load slightly faster, on average, than with Firefox, Opera or Internet Explorer, and the browser seems virtually crash-proof. It has a functional design that skips many of the perfunctory toolbars that clutter other browsers. Like Chrome, it offers a Private Browsing feature that keeps your searches off the record.

Stop: Perhaps Safari's best selling point for casual users is that there's nothing particularly fancy about it. If you're overwhelmed by talk of add-ons and Speed Dials, Safari might be just your speed; if you want bells and whistles, it might be underwhelming.

ON THE NET

Chrome
Beta version. Sorry, Mac users; for now, Chrome is only for Windows XP and Vista. Download at www.google.com/chrome.

Firefox
Version 3.0.3. Available for Windows XP and Vista, Mac OS X and Linux. Download at www.mozilla.com. Free add-ons available at addons.mozilla.org.

Flock
Version 2.0. Available for Windows XP and Vista, Mac OS X and Linux. Download at www.flock.com/download.

Internet Explorer
Version 8 (beta). Download at www.microsoft.com/ie. Available for Windows XP and Vista.

Opera
Version 9.62. Download at www.opera.com. Available for Windows XP and Vista, Mac OS X and Linux. Opera Mini available at www.operamini.com.

Safari
Version 3.1. Download at www.apple.com/safari. Available for Mac OS X and Windows XP and Vista.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB09-016 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2008
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) LAPTOPS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
EUGENE M. BABAUTA and ANGELA L. BABAUTA,
Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-459
SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 5, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 045 A 064, situated in As Matuis, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 949 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 003, dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1671, the description therein being incorporated herein by Reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held Friday, December 5, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of October, 2008:

/s/ **Michael A. White**
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
JOSE I. KAPILEO and ESTATE OF LONA P. PHILLIP, deceased,
Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0075
SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 13, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 129, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,104 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 0, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 16702 on March 11, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held Friday, December 5, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of October, 2008:

/s/ **Michael A. White**
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
PRISCILLA T. CASTRO
Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-504
SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 2, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 702, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being incorporated herein by Reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held Friday, December 5, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of October, 2008:

/s/ **Michael A. White**
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
HONORA A.KOSHIRO and SALVADOR S. KOSHIRO
Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-509D
THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 28, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 197, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 795 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 04, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4412, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held Friday, December 5, 2008 at the hour of 1:30 pm, at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of October, 2008:

/s/ **Michael A. White**
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
MARIANO S. NAPUTI
Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-382
NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an order issued by the Court in this matter on November 13, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat. No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as a document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held Friday, November 28, 2008 at the hour of 1:30 pm, at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of October, 2008:

/s/ **Michael A. White**
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0021
Plaintiff, :
-v- :
JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA, :
Defendant. :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 34 L 21, recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 12, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of November, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Life & Style

Kenny Chesney wins CMA's Entertainer of the Year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Kenny Chesney won his fourth entertainer of the year award and George Straight became the most-honored artist in CMA Awards history at Wednesday's ceremony, a show highlighted by a lavish performance by Taylor Swift, a surprise appearance by rapper Lil Wayne, and the return of one of country's biggest stars, Shania Twain.

"You look really good," Chesney remarked to Twain, who wore a sexy, low-cut dress as she presented Chesney with his award. Twain is one of country's best-selling artists, but has spent the last several years out of the spotlight. She hadn't been on the show in four years.

After winning the evening's top award, Chesney said: "As much as tonight is about awards, I really believe that being able to stand up here is more about great songs, more about the fans, more about being on stage every night in front of a lot of people that really make it happen for me and the band out there."

"This is my fourth time standing up here, and I'm really humbled and I really appreciate it," added Chesney.

The award—his third straight win in the category—helped Chesney avoid a shutout. He was the night's lead nominee with seven but did not pick up a trophy in the other categories.

George Strait won single and album of the year. The wins made him the act with the most awards in the history of the Country Music Association Awards, with 22 total. Strait thanked the songwriters for "letting me sing such a beautiful song" after the poignant "I Saw God Today" won single of the year. He later won album of the year for "Troubadour."

"Everybody says they've got the greatest fans. Well, I've really got the greatest fans," Strait said in accepting the album award.

Also winning two awards was Jennifer Nettles of Sugarland. Sugarland won the award for duo of the year, and earlier, Nettles won song of the year for Sugarland's hit "Stay."

"It's just been a gift from the beginning and been a gift to write and I hope it's been a gift and touched your heart," she said in accepting the award.

Carrie Underwood, who co-hosted the show with Brad Paisley, won her third consecutive female vocalist award.

"I just want to say Mom, it's real hard to sing when you're in the second row crying," a teary-eyed Underwood told her mother during her speech. It came after her performance of her No. 1 hit "Just a Dream," about a woman who lost her loved one in war. The song was introduced by Leslie Ponder who lost her husband in Afghanistan.

AP

Country Singer Kenny Chesney poses with his Entertainer of the Year award in the press room at the 42nd Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn., on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008.

Mitch Mitchell, drummer for Hendrix, found dead

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Mitch Mitchell, drummer for the legendary Jimi Hendrix Experience of the 1960s and the group's last surviving member, was found dead in his hotel room early Wednesday. He was 61.

Mitchell was a powerful force on the Hendrix band's 1967 debut album "Are You Experienced?" as well as the trio's albums "Electric Ladyland" and "Axis: Bold As Love." He had an explosive drumming style that can be heard in hard-charging songs such as "Fire" and "Manic Depression."

The Englishman had been drumming for the Experience Hendrix Tour, which performed Friday in Portland. It was the last stop on the West Coast part of the tour.

Hendrix died in 1970. Bass player Noel Redding died in 2003.

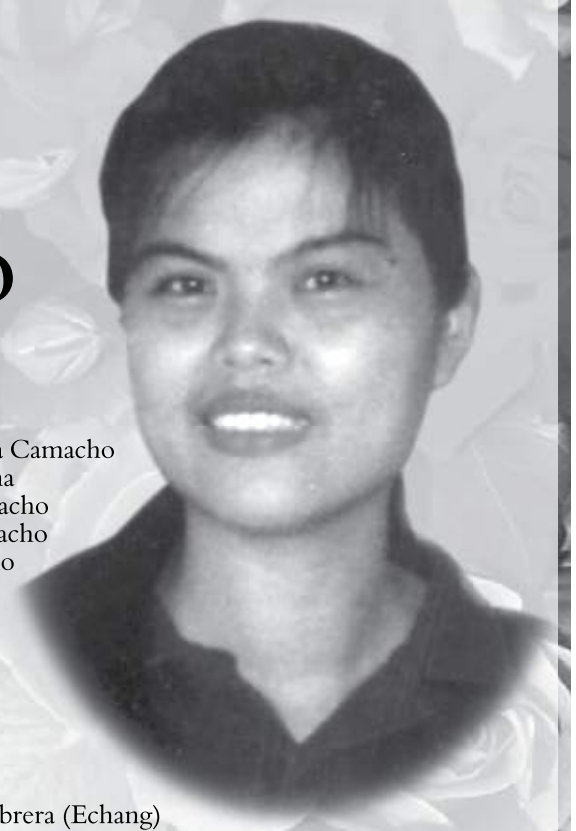
An employee at Portland's Benson Hotel called police after discovering Mitchell's body.

Erin Patrick, a deputy medical examiner, said Mitchell apparently died of natural causes. An autopsy was planned.

"He was a wonderful man, a brilliant musician and a true friend," said Janie Hendrix, chief executive of the Experience Hendrix Tour and Jimi Hendrix' stepsister. "His role in shaping the sound of the Jimi Hendrix Experience cannot be underestimated."

In Celebration of Her New Life

Sommai Lampha Camacho



Date of Birth: March 12, 1968
Date of Death: November 8, 2008

Survived by:

Husband:	Froilan Cabrera Camacho
Children:	Michael Lampha
	Andrea L. Camacho
	Andres L. Camacho
	Jose L. Camacho
Father:	Mun Lampha
Mother:	Yrou Lampha
Brothers:	Mano Lampha
	Mana Lampha
Sisters:	Prani Lampha
	Line Lampha
Mother in Law:	Andrea Blas Cabrera (Echang)
Father in Law:	Andres Tudela Camacho
Brothers and Sisters In Law:	Oscar C. and Arinta J. Camacho and Children
	Edward C. and Henoleen S. Camacho and Children
	Fred C. Camacho and Anna V. Yamada and Children
	Sebastian C. and Yuriko Camacho and Children
	Francisco C. and Eloise G. Camacho and Children
	Paul C. Camacho and Ida S. DeBrum
	Judi C. and Joe P. Fujihira and Children
Special Friends:	Thaiwon
	Yaowapha Rabauliman
	Thongpan Tom Lam Santos
	Thong Dee

Daily Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel. On Saturday, November 15, 2008, at 8:00 a.m., her remains will be escorted from CHC to Tanapag at the residence of Oscar and Arinta Camacho across from the Mobil Gas Station for viewing, followed by Responso Service and Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Interment service will follow at Tanapag Cemetary.

Thank you for all your prayers.

Froilan and Children
and
The Thai Food Store
Spicy Thai Noodle Places
Sri Thai Market
Thai Royal Crown Insurance Corporation
Thai House Restaurant
Wild Bill's Bar and Grill
Thai Community Friends
Rian Csaroenskai (Vice President Thai Community)

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

VERTILIA ELENA CAMACHO LEON GUERRERO

would like to invite all friends and relatives to join us in prayers as we commemorate her first year of passing unto eternal life.

Daily Mass is being offered every 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church beginning Monday, Nov. 17, 2008 until Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008.

On the final day, Nov. 25, 2008, breakfast will be served at the Social Hall of Kristo Rai Church right after the 6:00 am mass.

Thank You for your participation and prayers.

Nicolas C. Leon Guerrero & Children

Angelina Jolie talks 'Changeling,' motherhood

Angelina Jolie's performance in "Changeling" may see her back in Oscar's good graces.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In 'Changeling' she's grounded, but in real life, Angelina Jolie is a citizen...

By CHRIS LEE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Angelina Jolie appeared at the double-wide doorway of a penthouse suite at the Beverly Hilton Hotel unsmiling and peering warily from behind a curtain of dark hair. Attired in an opalescent, knee-skimming silk dress, she seemed grave—imperious and businesslike enough to give German Chancellor Angela Merkel a run for her new ranking as most powerful woman in the world. The actress was flanked by her manager, publicist and two burly security guards; together the pack had come from an adjoining suite where Jolie's team of hairstylists and makeup artists had just finished plying their trade.

She was here to talk about her critically acclaimed performance in " Changeling," which reached theaters last month and has predictably placed Jolie within a hive of Oscar buzz. She was also here to present an award at the Hollywood Film Festival Awards Gala. Unbeknown to a panoply of Hollywood bigwigs, who were packed into the hotel's ballroom, Jolie had flown in under the celebrity radar to hand "Changeling" director Clint Eastwood a director of the year statuette. (It would be widely reported later that the crowd "gasped audibly" when Jolie was introduced.)

However, less than an hour before she was to take the stage with Eastwood, Jolie claimed to be in the dark about the night's agenda. Whom had she come to honor? "I can't say. I never know how these things work. I don't even know what I'm doing."

You could excuse the Oscar-winning actress for being a bit unfocused. She had gotten back into the country only three days earlier from a fact-finding mission to Afghanistan, where Jolie met with poverty-stricken families as a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. The lack of sustainable infrastructure in that war-torn country and the need to repatriate some 3 million refugees was still very much front of mind. And such Hollywood concerns, she explained, pale in contrast to the issues that really matter. Like the world beyond the Thirty Mile Zone. And family. Hers includes a veritable Brady Bunch of adopted and biological children she shares with domestic partner Brad Pitt.

"I woke up at 3 in the morning with four kids with jet lag and two babies," said Jolie, 33. "I put myself together for a few hours and go out. And then I go home. This is my job."

She didn't want to sound ungrateful about Hollywood. "I don't dislike it here," Jolie continued. "I just really do love to travel. I love other cultures. And I love raising my kids in the world. I'm so fortunate that I get to do that."

For evidence of just how seriously Jolie takes her maternal identity, look no further than the cover of last month's W magazine, which features a grainy black-and-white photo (shot by Pitt) of the actress breast-feeding one of her twins—it's either Knox or Vivienne—in a French chateau last summer.

Considered in conjunction with a succession of paparazzi photos showing her and Pitt with various children in tow (or, alternately, the $14 million People magazine reportedly paid Jolie and Pitt for the first serial rights of photos of the twins in August) you get the idea that it is as a mother—and not a movie star—Jolie prefers to be recognized.

"The center of my life is my kids," Jolie said.

Then there is her role in "Changeling," a dramatic thriller set in the late '20s that's based on real events. Jolie plays Christine Collins, a Los Angeles woman whose son goes missing but is later found by police. Except, the person returned to her is not her boy. After she confronts authorities, the LAPD not only rejects Collins' story, they throw her into the "psych ward" of a county hospital. She must somehow find the wherewithal to stand up for herself—for her missing son—and take on the system.

"Christine fought so hard under such incredible circumstance for the rights of other women," Jolie said. "It was a real story that I thought sent a positive message about what you can accomplish. About democracy in action."

In a minutely calibrated performance she based on her late mother, the actress used floods of tears to convey a palate of emotions: despair, rage, indignation, disbelief. Jolie attributed the sharpness of her portrayal in part to Eastwood's run-and-gun style; one that seldom required more than two takes per shot. "You feel you can absolutely break yourself," she said. "You can drain every bit of energy you've got. He's not going to waste your time."

(And at the awards gala, Eastwood returned the praise: "Working with Angelina Jolie is a great privilege because you get to look on that gorgeous beauty every day," he said. "And she's a great talent.")

Viewed in a certain light, "Changeling" arrives as Jolie's fourth-consecutive mom-centric film. She was Grendel's mother in last year's "Beowulf," the heavily pregnant wife of a kidnapped journalist in the indie drama "A Mighty Heart" and in August's shoot-'em-up thriller " Wanted," Jolie metaphorically mothers James McEvoy's transformation from nebbish office worker to killing machine.

Nonetheless, Jolie waves away the notion that her maternal instinct has helped shape any career agenda. "I don't think it's a choice of mine as much as it is something women deal with when we get older," she said. "A woman in her 30s is more likely to have roles that in some way relate to family."

Or vice versa. In this case, she took a role that directly resulted in enlarging her family. Jolie confides that "Changeling's" themes of motherhood interrupted helped push her and Pitt's procreative process. "I got pregnant right in the middle of it and I think partially because of it," she said, smiling at the memory. "I was so emotional about children that I think something in me kicked into gear."

Lee is a Times staff writer.

Lohan refers to Obama as 'first colored president'

NEW YORK (AP)—Lindsay Lohan referred to President-elect Barack Obama as the country's "first colored president" in an interview on "Access Hollywood." Describing her experience on Election Day, Lohan said: "It was really exciting. It's an amazing feeling. It's our first colored president."

A spokeswoman for Lohan didn't immediately return messages left Wednesday.

Interviewer Maria Menounos didn't question the 22-year-old actress on her use of the term. "Access Hollywood" also didn't cite her remark in its online story, but did post an "extended interview" video on its Web site that included the remark.

A spokesman for the syndicated entertainment news program said in a statement Wednesday: "We believe the word in question that Ms. Lohan used was unintelligible."

Lohan blogged about her support of Obama during the presidential campaign.

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Quantum of Solace
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Thurs 4:20 7:05
Daniel Craig, Judi Dench
Action, Adventure • Rated PG
Synopsis
Betrayed by Vesper, the woman he loved, 007 fights the urge to make his latest mission personal. Pursuing his determination to uncover the truth, James Bond and M interrogate Mr. White who reveals the organization which blackmailed Vesper is far more complex and dangerous than anyone had imagined. Forensic intelligence links an Mi6 traitor to a bank account in Haiti where a case of mistaken identity introduces Bond to the beautiful but feisty Camille, a woman who has her own vendetta.

★ ★ ★

Madagascar Escape 2 Africa
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Thurs 4:10 7:25
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG
Synopsis
Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe and Gloria the hippo, King Julien, Maurice and the penguins find themselves in the wildest place of all--the vast plains of Africa—where our zoo-raised crew encounter species of their own kind for the very first time. While discovering their roots, they quickly find the differences between the concrete jungle and the heart of Africa. Despite long-lost relatives, romantic rivals and scheming hunters, Africa seems like a great place--but is it better than their Central Park home?

Role Models
Friday 4:15 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:15 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:15 7:00
Mon and Thurs 4:15 7:00
Seann William Scott, Paul Rudd
Comedy, Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
Two salesmen, Wheeler and Danny, trash a company truck on an energy drink-fueled bender. Upon their arrest, the court gives them a choice: do hard time or spend 150 service hours with a mentorship program. After one day with the kids, however, jail doesn't look half bad. Surrounded by annoying do-gooders, Danny struggles with every neurotic impulse to guide Augie through the trials of becoming a man.

High School Musical 3
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Thurs 4:00 7:10
Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G

Soul Men
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:15
Mon and Thurs 4:30 7:15
Samuel L. Jackson, Bernie MAc
Comedy • Rated R

Max Payne
Friday 4:25 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Thurs 4:25 7:30
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Eagle Eye
Friday 4:05 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:20
Mon and Thurs 4:05 7:20
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

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Shameless 'friend' lobbies for loan that wasn't offered

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Tracy" has been hinting that she needs to borrow money. I don't loan money to people unless it's an emergency, and frankly, I know if I lend her any, she won't pay me back.

Last week she took her family on vacation and to her uncle's funeral. When they got back, she went on and on about all the fun they had and mentioned that she had spent almost $1,000. She then followed it up with, "So, next month I may need to borrow money from you. Does your offer still stand?"

Abby, I never offered to loan her money! I quickly changed the subject because I didn't want to say anything I might regret later. How do I tell her I don't want to loan her money without losing a friendship or hurting her feelings?

ON THE SPOT IN SEATTLE

DEAR ON THE SPOT: Tracy may be charming and fun to be around, but she's not a friend. In fact, she appears to be a bit of a hustler. Two can play that game.

When she raises the subject of the loan again—and she will—tell her: "Tracy, the last time you mentioned this, don't you remember me telling you I never lend money? In fact, I really could use some myself."

Please don't worry about losing a friendship or hurting her feelings. Tracy has the hide of a rhino, and friends don't use friends the way she's trying to use you. Shame on her.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 13-year-old girl in eighth grade. Ever since fifth grade I have had a crush on a teacher, "Mr. M."

He was my homeroom teacher in fifth grade, and I just kind of "fell in love" with him. Mr. M. is 40 and has two children.

Abby, I know it is wrong, but for some reason, I have been obsessed with him. Ever since I was 10 I have been his favorite student, and obviously he was my favorite teacher.

This school year is the first time Mr. M. isn't teaching any of my classes. I realize this is probably a good thing, but I'm having difficulty accepting it. I feel awful. How should I handle it?

EIGHTH-GRADE ADMIRER

DEAR ADMIRER: Many young ladies have had crushes on their male teachers, myself included. I am not minimizing your feelings for Mr. M., but with time and distance they will diminish. What you are experiencing is a combination of growing pains and withdrawal. Part of what you are missing is the rush of adrenaline you felt when you saw Mr. M. every day.

You have many wonderful, exciting experiences ahead of you both intellectually and romantically. The feelings you are experiencing are part of growing up. The harder you focus on what lies ahead of you, the less time you will have to look back over your shoulder and brood.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I belong to an organization that helps support our local food bank. One of our jobs is to check the expiration dates on the packaging. Canned goods have expiration dates, and if they are old, they must be thrown out.

Please tell your readers to check the dates before sending items on to the food drive. Then their generosity will reach the people for whom it was intended. I think they would be sad to know how much food is wasted because it was donated after the expiration date.

KALI IN RENO, NEV.

DEAR KALI: Your letter speaks for itself. People in need don't want spoiled food any more than the donors do. Thank you for writing.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Michael Jackson gives Neverland to corporation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson has given up title to his Neverland ranch, transferring the deed to a company he partly controls.

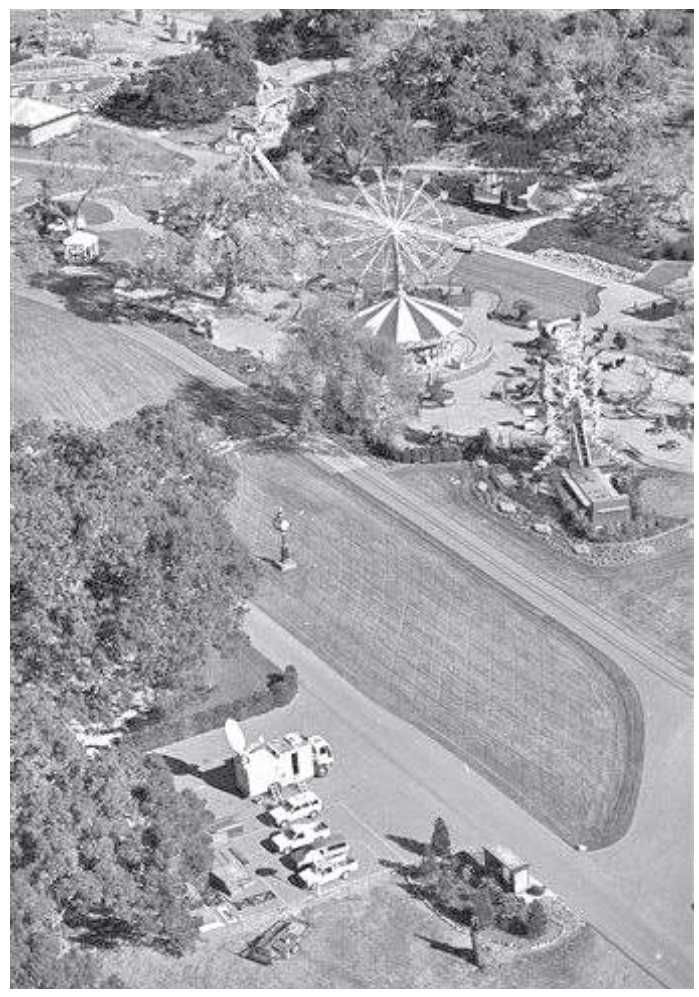
The singer filed a grant deed on the ranch Monday that makes the new owner an entity called the Sycamore Valley Ranch Co. LLC, Tom Pearson of the Santa Barbara County clerk-recorder's office said Wednesday.

Sycamore Valley Ranch Co. is a joint venture between Jackson and an affiliate of Colony Capital LLC, according to a person with knowledge of the transaction who was not authorized to speak on the record and requested anonymity.

The person could not say what would become of the 2,500-acre property in the bucolic, oak-studded hills of Santa Barbara County's wine country, 120 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

A call to an attorney for Jackson, L. Londell McMillan, was not immediately returned Wednesday.

Jackson had gone into default on the $24.5 million he owes on the property and had faced foreclosure before Colony Capital bailed him out earlier this year by purchasing his loan.



AP

This Dec. 22, 1993, file photo shows an aerial view of Michael Jackson's Neverland ranch in Santa Ynez, Calif.

Pearson said the deed did not indicate who owns Sycamore.

A listing on the California secretary of state's Web site says the company filed with the state in June. It does not identify its owners, but the company has the same Century City address as Colony Capital LLC.

Colony Capital is a Los Angeles-based real estate investment company run by billionaire Tom Barrack. It owns several properties in Las Vegas, including the Las Vegas Hilton.

The property was called Sycamore Valley Ranch before Jackson bought it in 1988 and began turning it into a miniature amusement park with a zoo, Ferris wheel, roller coaster and other rides.

At the height of his popularity, the superstar invited thousands of children to play on the grounds.

He renamed the ranch after the mythical land of Peter Pan and set about creating the magical childhood experiences he said his career as a child star had denied him.

"It's like stepping into Oz," he once said of Neverland. "Once you come in the gates, the outside world does not exist."

Fan of Abdul found dead near 'Idol' judge's home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A fan of Paula Abdul whose failed audition for "American Idol" aired in season five was found dead in a car near the home of the pop star and judge she admired, authorities said Wednesday.

Abdul

Police indicated that Paula Goodspeed, whose rendition of "Proud Mary" was roundly criticized by Simon Cowell and rejected by Abdul and Randy Jackson, had possibly committed suicide, said Ed Winter, assistant chief of the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner. An official cause of death had not been determined.

Authorities found Goodspeed's body Tuesday evening in a car that photos show bearing the vanity license plate "ABL LV" in a Los Angeles Lakers frame. Her parents had reported her missing hours earlier and expressed concern that she might hurt herself.

Los Angeles police spokeswoman Julianne Sohn says officers responded to a call about 6 p.m. Tuesday and arrived in the Sherman Oaks area to find the body.

"I am deeply shocked and saddened at what transpired yesterday," Abdul said in a statement released by her publicist, Jeff Ballard. "My heart and prayers go out to her family."

Goodspeed's audition was aired during the season that began in January 2006. She told the show's host, Ryan Seacrest, how she was a huge fan of Abdul and created life-size paintings of the singer and former Laker Girl; she also called Abdul "beautiful" after Cowell said he noticed a resemblance between Goodspeed and Abdul.

But Cowell also made light of Goodspeed's braces and bloggers trashed her appearance, which she noted in a MySpace posting months after the show aired.

"American Idol" producer Fremantle Media North America declined comment.

An Obama boom in the publishing industry

NEW YORK (AP)—Between the books already out there and the books signed up for the future, it's boom time for President-elect Barack Obama in the publishing world.

According to Nielsen Bookscan, which tracks about 70 percent of the country's sales, more than 100,000 copies of his books sold Nov. 3-9, including 50,000 copies each of "The Audacity of Hope" and "Dreams from My Father" and 19,000 copies of "Change We Can Believe In," a collection of speeches and policy papers.

Bids on eBay for a signed first edition of "The Audacity of Hope," a million-seller published in 2006, have topped $1,000.

Meanwhile, publishers are grabbing up new books about Obama, the first black president-elect. According to the industry newsletter http://www.publishersmarketplace.com , which compiles deals, at least seven Obama-related projects have been agreed upon since the Nov. 4 election.

They include William Eggers' and John O'Leary's "If We Can Put a Man on the Moon," a policy "roadmap" for the incoming administration, and "Renegade: The Education of Barack Obama," by Newsweek's Richard Wolffe.

MSNBC retracts false Palin story; others duped

NEW YORK (AP)—MSNBC was the victim of a hoax when it reported that an adviser to John McCain had identified himself as the source of an embarrassing story about former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, the network said Wednesday.

David Shuster, an anchor for the cable news network, said on air Monday that Martin Eisenstadt, a McCain policy adviser, had come forth and identified himself as the source of a Fox News Channel story saying Palin had mistakenly believed Africa was a country instead of a continent.

Eisenstadt identifies himself on a blog as a senior fellow at the Harding Institute for Freedom and Democracy. Yet neither he nor the institute exist; each is part of a hoax dreamed up by a filmmaker named Eitan Gorlin and his partner, Dan Mirvish, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Beyonce joins the list of divas at AMA Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—This year's American Music Awards will be diva-heavy, with Beyonce topping the list. The singer is to perform at the Nov. 23 ceremony in Los Angeles, which will air 8 p.m. EST live on ABC. The show will include many of pop's top female singers. Also part of the performing lineup: Christina Aguilera, Mariah Carey, Alicia Keys, Taylor Swift and Rihanna. Annie Lennox is to receive the AMA's Award of Merit. Jimmy Kimmel is set to host the 36th annual event. Other performers include Kanye West, the Jonas Brothers, Ne-Yo and Miley Cyrus.

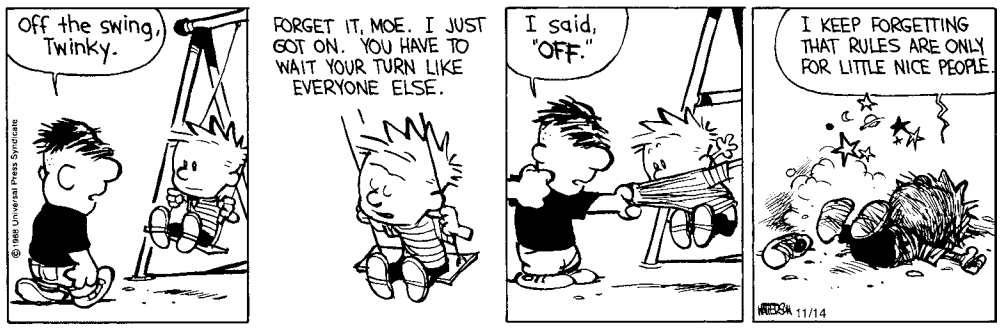
NBC announces stars for Christmas tree telecast

NEW YORK (AP)—Lots of talent will be present for NBC's annual "Christmas in Rockefeller Center" telecast. Hosted by Al Roker, this 76th formal tree lighting ceremony will feature Beyonce, Tony Bennett, the Jonas Brothers, Harry Connick Jr., David Cook and Rosie O'Donnell, the network said Wednesday. Other scheduled performers include Faith Hill, Rascal Flatts, "America's Got Talent" winner Neal E. Boyd and singer-songwriter Solange Knowles, as well as the Broadway Kids, students in a performing arts program founded by O'Donnell. They will perform from Rockefeller Center's Art Deco plaza in the heart of Manhattan. The live, hourlong special airs 8 p.m. EST Dec. 3.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


Off the swing, Twinky.
FORGET IT, MOE. I JUST GOT ON. YOU HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
I said, "OFF."
I KEEP FORGETTING THAT RULES ARE ONLY FOR LITTLE NICE PEOPLE.
11/14

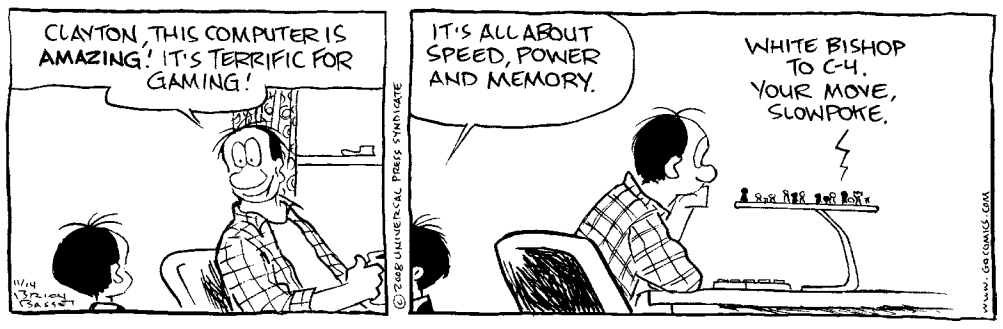
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I HEAR YOU HAVE A GIRRRRL-FRIEND
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO, DOC BOY
HAVE YOU KIIIISSSSED HER YET?
YES, I HAVE!
UH... WHAT'S THAT LIKE?
JIM DAVIS 11-14

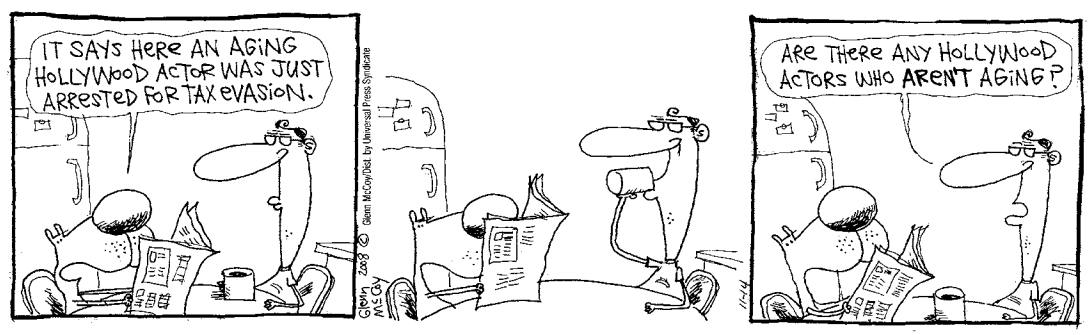
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON, THIS COMPUTER IS AMAZING! IT'S TERRIFIC FOR GAMING!
IT'S ALL ABOUT SPEED, POWER AND MEMORY.
WHITE BISHOP TO C-4. YOUR MOVE, SLOWPOKE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

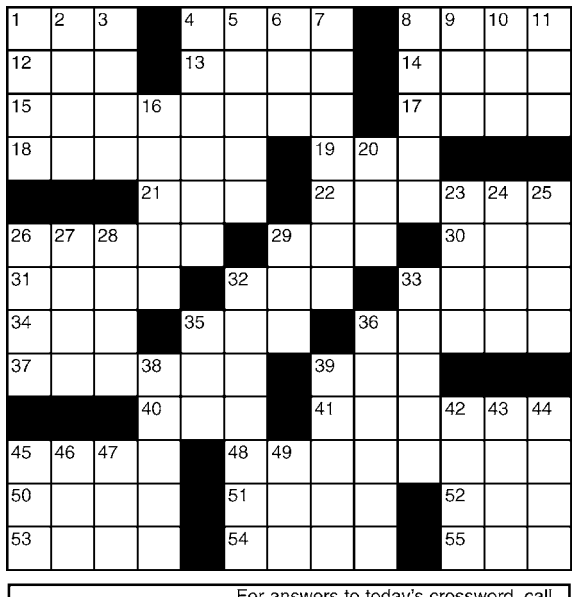
ACROSS
1 Swiffer ancestor
4 Surrounded by
8 Staff leader?
12 In days past
13 Loutish one
14 Groucho-esque look
15 Loyal
17 Unctuous
18 Foursome
19 Scatter seeds
21 Unfriendly
22 George Hamilton trademark
26 Oddball
29 Lustrous black
30 Greek vowel
31 Radius neighbor
32 Unopened rose
33 Pirates' beverage
34 Spelling contest
35 Mrs. Al Bundy
36 Ends a relationship with
37 Got real angry
39 Wire measure
40 9mm submachine gun
41 Fit for farming
45 Boston is one variety
48 Author of Old West novels
50 It takes the cake
51 Grand tale
52 Census statistic
53 Group of quail
54 Tidy
55 Pantheon member

DOWN
1 Damon or Dillon
2 Shrek is one
3 Sulk
4 Monastery head's office
5 Like old bread
6 Debtor's letters
7 Clad
8 Circus favorite
9 Floral garland
10 Moray, for one
11 Sauté
16 "All My Children" role
20 Chic no longer
23 Expression
24 On
25 No Derby winners
26 Long sandwiches
27 Entreaty
28 From the start
29 Moonshine container
32 Adorn gaudily
33 Labor camp
35 Dispensable candy
36 Straightforward
38 Overly soft and liquid
39 Craze
42 Boast
43 Building-block name
44 Watched
45 Watch chain
46 Leading lady?
47 Gun the engine
49 Mimic

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	E	A	L	■	E	Y	E	S	■	P	A	L
A	G	U	E	■	C	O	M	P	■	A	M	O
P	A	R	A	C	H	U	T	E	■	R	O	W
A	D	A	G	I	O	■	■	A	W	A	K	E
■	■	■	U	S	■	W	I	R	E	D	■	■
D	U	P	E	■	B	E	D	■	B	I	L	K
E	R	A	■	■	O	I	L	■	■	S	E	E
F	I	R	E	■	A	R	E	■	M	E	A	N
■	■	A	W	A	R	D	■	H	I	■	■	■
M	A	N	E	S	■	■	B	A	M	B	O	O
U	F	O	■	P	A	R	A	M	O	U	N	T
S	R	I	■	I	C	O	N	■	S	M	U	T
S	O	D	■	C	E	D	E	■	A	P	S	O

Yesterday's answer 11-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Travis Barker, 33; Laura San Giacomo, 46; Yanni, 54; Prince Charles, 60

Happy Birthday: You may find it difficult to balance all aspects of your life. There are things that must be done to make your household run more efficiently. Family members or good friends can help. This is the year to rid yourself of whatever and whoever is costing you too much or bringing you down. It's up to you. Your numbers are 2, 10, 18, 21, 27, 35, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A concern regarding your money, a deal or someone you must get along with professionally will surface. As long as you don't ignore the signs that trouble is brewing, you will be able to control the outcome. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): The stakes may be high but, if you don't try, you'll never know what you may miss. Think of the possibilities and muster up the courage to take a chance to excel. A friend or partner should help you realize your potential. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone you know through work may mislead you. A problem with children or a close friend may occupy your time, however, don't lose sight of what you need to get done to keep your job, pass a test or fulfill a responsibility. A short trip will clear your head. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stop contemplating and start doing. Change is good and opportunities will come from doing things a little differently or changing your routine. Don't stifle the possibilities when you have so much to gain by moving forward. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Arguments will be a waste of time. A money matter you are trying to resolve will be laden with deception and disillusionment. An unusual approach to a pending problem may shine a new light on the outcome. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't bring your emotions into your business dealings. Be clear about what you need to get done and don't stop until you have taken care of all your responsibilities. Broken promises will ruin your reputation and your chance to advance. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get away from it all, even if it is only a short distance. Pampering and treating yourself will pay off in the way you feel and the confidence you gain. Your enthusiasm will bring about an opportunity to try your hand at something different. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't trust anyone with your cash but don't be afraid to put a little extra into your surroundings. Do the work yourself and you will save a bundle, leaving extra for those added features you'd like to implement. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be fooled by what you hear. Confusion, uncertainty and disillusionment could all lead to a poor choice. Avoid impulsive action and arguments with agencies, people or companies for which you are no match. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Shoot for the stars, make your move and don't even consider stopping short of your goals. You can strengthen your position, even out your odds and make a change to your future financially, professionally and personally. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Let the quiet giant within take over. Work behind the scenes. Keep a close eye on what the competition is doing but don't let it fluster you or impede your progress. Preparation will be the key to your success. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can learn from past experience and save yourself a bundle. Someone you have been responsible for will end up giving back. A call or email you send to someone you've wanted to reconnect with will be well received. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded, caring and ready to help. You are intent on getting to the bottom of things. You are sensitive and empathetic.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6								7
		1	9		2	8		
	4			8			3	
	2						8	
		7				4		
	3						5	
	8			4			9	
		9	1		7	5		
5								6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	2	8	9	1	6	5	3
8	6	5	3	2	7	9	4	1
1	3	9	5	6	4	7	8	2
2	4	8	9	5	6	1	3	7
6	1	7	2	4	3	5	9	8
5	9	3	1	7	8	4	2	6
7	2	6	4	8	9	3	1	5
9	8	1	6	3	5	2	7	4
3	5	4	7	1	2	8	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CREDIT CARD LIABILITY **Solution: 9 letters**

P	S	A	Y	E	R	A	C	E	I	L	I	N	G	T
A	R	M	T	Y	S	N	O	I	S	I	V	O	R	P
I	E	O	I	C	O	U	R	T	S	O	L	N	R	D
D	D	U	R	N	E	T	U	I	U	A	O	O	A	E
P	R	N	U	E	V	F	L	M	E	I	T	T	C	D
Y	O	T	C	C	L	E	E	E	T	E	E	N	R	I
Y	E	T	E	A	O	H	S	A	C	G	A	A	E	S
T	D	N	S	L	S	T	Z	T	A	S	D	L	V	P
I	N	B	O	P	E	I	I	R	I	N	(R)	L	E	U
V	U	A	T	M	R	O	E	U	A	G	E	(I)	R	T
I	F	N	H	O	N	V	N	T	M	F	A	B	(S)	E
T	E	K	H	C	O	N	S	U	M	E	R	T	E	(K)
C	R	T	E	C	R	E	V	O	R	P	P	A	E	N
A	U	T	E	X	T	E	N	D	R	E	B	M	U	N
A	M	U	M	I	X	A	M	I	A	L	C	A	R	D

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Activity, Amount, Approve, Authorization, Bank, Bill, Card, Care, Ceiling, Claim, Complacency, Consumer, Court, Coverage, Date, Dispute, Extend, Fraud, Investigate, Issue, Lost, Maximum, Merchant, Money, Nuisance, Number, Order, Paid, Protection, Provisions, Refund, Resolve, Reverse, Risk, Rules, Security, Standard, Stop, Theft, Time

Yesterday's Answer: Historic

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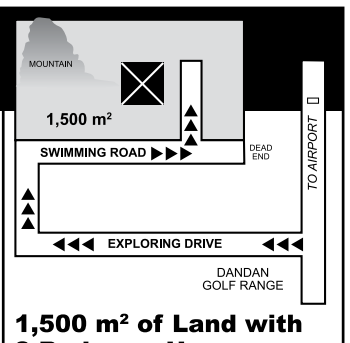

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Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

TEMPORARY (1 YEAR) POSITION

"SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR"

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), a non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Code, seeks a **SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR**. This is a non-exempt position responsible for carrying out the objectives of the Family Support 360 program as per Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD). The Systems Navigator reports to the Program Manager and works under direct supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- An Associates Degree (A.A. or A.S.) in any related field or no less than 60 credit hours from a post secondary school; or
- Two (2) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the specific principles and practices for the work in this position.

PREFERRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productive working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals;
- Oral and written communication skills that enable employee to effectively and professionally communicate with co-workers, clients and other working professionals; and
- Proficiency in usage of computers including, but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms, (4) a Police Clearance and (5) must be submitted ***no later than 5:00pm on November 30, 2008.*** Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Jim Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at nmpasi@pticom.com . NMPASI IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

James M. Rayphand
Executive Director

John Guerrero
President

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-GOV-018

Project Manager For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified individuals for Professional Services for Project Manager for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The proposal package will be available on or after **November 7, 2008** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan or by request faxed to (670) 664-1515.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 PM, November 17, 2008** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number: 670)664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per PL 15-95 as further amended by PL 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**Project Manager", RFP09-GOV- 018**. One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. For proposers within the CNMI, sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 pm, November 21, 2008 (CNMI local time)**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **3:00 pm, November 21, 2008 (CNMI local time)** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or e-mail procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside of the CNMI, the proposal must be postmarked by the USPO (or FedEx, DHL, etc.), or Official Post Office of a foreign country no later than **November 21, 2008**, and received no later than **December 3, 2008 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor, CNMI

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Wanted

ONE (1) EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The *Saipan Tribune* is in urgent need of a full-time editorial assistant. Applicants should have the following qualifications:

- At least high school graduate or GED equivalent
- Fast and accurate typing skills
- Knows how to use a computer
- Familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline-oriented environment
- Can work on weekends and holidays
- Experience with Macintosh an advantage
- Local hires only

Applicants may drop off their applications and resume at the HR Department, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Garapan, Beach Road (inside the *Saipan Tribune* offices), or they may e-mail applications to editor@saipantribune.com. Deadline for submission: Nov. 20, 2008.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

McGrady leads Rockets to win over Suns

PHOENIX (AP)—Tracy McGrady snapped out of a slump to score 22 of his 27 points in the second half Wednesday night, and the Houston Rockets beat the Phoenix Suns 94-82 in a game that featured a scoring landmark for Shaquille O'Neal and a skirmish that drew two ejections and seven technical fouls.

McGrady, 1-for-16 shooting in his previous two games, made 11 of 18 shots, going 9-of-14 in the second half as the Rockets used a tough defense to dominate the Suns and spoil O'Neal's big night.

The Suns center scored 18 points to move past John Havlicek into 10th on the NBA career scoring list. O'Neal also grabbed 13 rebounds.

What was mostly a shoving match broke out just after McGrady's 3-pointer put Houston ahead 74-55 with 27 seconds left in the third quarter. Houston's Rafer Alston, apparently upset after getting a shoulder from Matt Barnes, shoved the Phoenix player at midcourt.

Steve Nash rushed into middle of things and was pushed to the court by McGrady, who in turn was shoved down by O'Neal.

After coaches and officials separated the players, the referees huddled and decided to eject Alston and Barnes with double technicals. McGrady, Nash and O'Neal all drew technical fouls, an outcome that was greeted by a chorus of boos from the crowd. The net result was a technical free throw for Houston, which Yao Ming missed.

Yao added 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Rockets, who led by 19 entering the fourth quarter.

Aaron Brooks scored 19 and Alston 15 for Houston. The Suns' Leandro Barbosa scored 18 on 5-for-14 shooting.

Phoenix, the best shooting team in the NBA going into the game (51.5 percent), shot just 38 percent (32-for-85).

Houston outscored the Suns 15-8 to start the second quarter, taking a 38-30 lead on consecutive jumpers by Brooks. The Suns missed three shots and had two turnovers in their last five possessions of the half to trail 44-37 at the break on Ron Artest's 18-footer at the buzzer.

Artest missed his first seven shots before his buzzer-beater. He finished 1-for-11. The Suns' Amare Stoudemire scored just two points on 1-for-4 shooting and didn't go to the foul line in the first half. He finished with 11 points, going 5-of-13 from the floor.

AP

Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady is held back by teammate Luis Scola, of Argentina, after a fight broke out against the Phoenix Suns during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008 in Phoenix.

Celtics 103, Atlanta 102

At Boston, Paul Pierce hit a fallaway jumper with 0.5 seconds left, scoring 34 points in all on Wednesday as the Boston Celtics overcame a 16-point, second-quarter deficit to beat Atlanta 103-102 and send the Hawks to their first loss of the season.

Kevin Garnett had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Rajon Rondo had 10 assists for the Celtics.

Joe Johnson scored 28 for Atlanta (6-1), finding an open Marvin Williams for the go-ahead 3-pointer with seven seconds left. But Pierce answered at the other end and the Celtics beat Atlanta in Boston for the eighth straight time, including all four in their first-round playoff series last spring when they took advantage of the home-court advantage to oust the Hawks in seven games.

Trail Blazers 104, Heat 96

At Miami, Rudy Fernandez scored 25 points, including a clutch spinning jumper as the shot clock expired with 44.9 seconds left, and Portland celebrated Greg Oden's return to the lineup with a victory over Miami.

Brandon Roy scored 22 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 14 for the Trail Blazers. Oden, the 2007 No. 1 overall pick who missed all of last season and sprained his right foot in this season's opener, finished with three points and two rebounds in 16 minutes in his first action since spraining his right foot in Portland's season-opener.

Dwyane Wade scored 36 points—his fourth straight game of 30 or better, a franchise record—for Miami, which failed in its bid for the first 4-0 home start in team history.

Magic 109, Thunder 92

At Oklahoma City, Dwight Howard recorded his first career triple-double with 30 points, 19 rebounds and 10 blocks and Orlando beat Oklahoma.

Howard had a double-double and matched his previous career-best of seven blocks in the first half then scored the Magic's first nine points after halftime to stretch the lead to 32.

Jeff Green had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Russell Westbrook added 13 points and Earl Watson and Desmond Mason each scored 12 for the Thunder.

Wizards 95, Jazz 87

At Washington, All-Star forwards Caron Butler and Antawn Jamison, and rookie JaVale McGee helped Washington avoided the first 0-6 start in franchise history by beating Utah.

Butler finished with 27 points and nine rebounds, while Jamison had 21 points and eight rebounds. They combined for 20 points in the final period.

First-round draft pick McGee, a 7-footer who left Nevada after his sophomore season, set personal NBA bests with 13 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks.

Carlos Boozer led Northwest Division-leading Utah with 20 points.

Knicks 132, Grizzlies 103

At Memphis, Tennessee, Wilson Chandler scored a career-high 27 points, missing only one of his 12 shots, and New York made a franchise-record 19 3-pointers in a win over Memphis.

Jamal Crawford added 25 points and eight assists for the Knicks, Nate Robinson scored 21, hitting all eight of his shots, while Zach Randolph had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 20 points, while O.J. Mayo scored 17. Marc Gasol finished with 16 points for Memphis, which lost for the first time at home this season.

Pacers 98, Nets 87

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, T.J. Ford had 18 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and the banged-up India won its third straight game with a victory over New Jersey.

Marquis Daniels and Jeff Foster added 16 points apiece as the Pacers beat the Nets for the second time in three games.

Vince Carter scored 28 points and Jarvis Hayes added 15 for the Nets, who lost their third straight game with point guard Devin Harris sidelined with a sprained ankle. New Jersey turned the ball over 18 times, leading to 25 points for Indiana.

76ers 106, Raptors 96

At Toronto, Elton Brand scored a season-high 25 points, Andre Miller and Andre Iguodala each had 18, and Philadelphia snapped a three-game losing streak by beating the Toronto.

Willie Green scored 17 points and Marreese Speights had 12 for the 76ers, who won for the first time in four road games this season.

Brand, who had scored just 31 total points in Philadelphia's past three games, eclipsed his previous high of 24, set in an Oct. 31 victory over New York.

Chris Bosh had 30 points and 12 rebounds, but Toronto still lost for the fourth time in five games after starting the season 3-0.

Lakers 93, Hornets 86

At New Orleans, Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher each scored 20 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers improved to 7-0 with a win over Charlotte.

The Lakers never trailed and led by as much as 23 before nervously holding on against a team that is expected to be one of their chief rivals for Western Conference supremacy.

Chris Paul had 30 points and 13 assists for New Orleans (4-3).

Bucks 82, Spurs 78

At Milwaukee, Richard Jefferson scored 16 of his 19 points in the second half, Andrew Bogut grabbed 17 rebounds and Milwaukee held on after a big run to beat Tim Duncan and San Antonio.

Duncan, who had 24 points, scored 14 of the Spurs' 19 points in the fourth quarter in a rally that fell just short when he missed a 5-footer that would've tied it with 5 seconds to play.

San Antonio, missing Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili to injuries, is off to its worst start since going 2-13 in 1996-97.

Confident Romo ready to return for Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Tony Romo laughed at the notion his return to the Dallas lineup will be the complete cure for the struggling Cowboys.

"We will find out on Sunday," Romo said. "A lot of different people may have gotten to a point where they feel we might not have a chance to do what we hoped to do at the beginning of the year. ... I think that is something that can bring a team together."

The Cowboys (5-4) have gone from Super Bowl favorites to third place in the NFC East by losing four of their last six. They are 1-2 since Romo broke the pinkie on his throwing hand, but had the same record in the three games before he got hurt.

Romo, who returned to practice during last week's open date, is ready to get back on the field Sunday night when the Cowboys play the Redskins in Washington. Romo doesn't expect the pinkie to be a problem.

"It's getting better," Romo said Wednesday. "Every day it gets a little better and I'm confident that I'll feel pretty good for the game."

Asked what the pinkie might keep him from doing, Romo responded, "I don't know that there will be anything."

Romo said there is a "little bit of pain" taking snaps from center, but described that as "no different than having a little bruise or something. You just play through it."

Terrell Owens said it's obvious Romo is feeling better the way he is throwing the ball.

"He's trying to get a feel for what he can do and what he can't do," Owens said. "We're going to assess that, the coaches will, just like any practice. I don't think they're going to hold him back by any means."

Romo got hurt on the first play of overtime in the Cowboys' 30-24 loss at Arizona on Oct. 12.

While Dallas had struggled after a 3-0 start with Romo in the lineup, including a loss to Washington on Sept. 28, the offense was horrendous with Brad Johnson and Brooks Bollinger playing quarterback.

The Cowboys didn't score more than 14 points in any of those three games, and won 13-9 over Tampa Bay despite a franchise-low 172 total yards. They then gained only 183 yards in 35-14 loss at the New York Giants before the much-needed open date.

Romo might not be the cure, but his return certainly won't hurt.

"He has got zip on the ball. Players see that, and I think it helps our practices," coach Wade Phillips said.

"He obviously helps, one of the best in the league," tight end Jason Witten said. "But there's other problems besides the quarterback being out. I think we all understand that."

Left guard Kyle Kosier is expected to play after missing the last six games with a right foot injury, as is cornerback Terence Newman after being out five because of a sports hernia. Both Kosier and Newman practiced Wednesday, but rookie running back Felix Jones (hamstring) sat out again.

Maddon, Piniella win Manager of Year awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Maddon had a good reason for interrupting his honeymoon. About an hour after he landed in Rome, the newly married Maddon easily won the American League Manager of the Year award Wednesday for guiding Tampa Bay from baseball's basement to the World Series in one astonishing season.

Lou Piniella took the NL honor after leading the Chicago Cubs to the league's best record.

Maddon, who succeeded Piniella as Tampa Bay manager in 2006, was a runaway winner in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He received all but one of the 28 first-place votes—the other went to Minnesota's Ron Gardenhire.

It was a nice wedding gift for Maddon and his wife, Jaye, who got married last weekend. But it meant that one of the first things he did in Italy was get on the phone for a conference call with reporters.

"Jaye is very understanding of the whole situation. We knew this was a possibility," Maddon said. "Truly a remarkable season in so many different ways."

Next stop: the Vatican on Thursday. Then the Sistine Chapel, followed by trips to Florence, Prague and London.

"I really don't think they care about the World Series over here," Maddon said. "It's kind of fun being a tour guide."

Piniella beat out Charlie Manuel of the World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies to earn his third Manager of the Year award and first in the NL. The fiery skipper also won in 1995 and 2001 with Seattle.

This time, he got 15 of 32 first-place votes and totaled 103 points to 67 for Manuel, listed first on eight ballots. Florida's Fredi Gonzalez finished third with five first-place votes and 48 points.

"I'm thrilled and I'm honored. I know there were a lot of managers in the National League who had good seasons," Piniella said from his home in Tampa, Fla.

The 65-year-old manager earned a $100,000 bonus for winning, which he plans to donate to the team's charity partner, McCormick Foundation's Cubs Care.

"My good fortune can get spread around a little bit," Piniella said. "The kids in the Chicago area will benefit from this and I'm very happy."

Two other managers garnered first-place votes: Joe Torre of the Los Angeles Dodgers (three) and Tony La Russa of the St. Louis Cardinals (one).

Dale Sveum got a third-place vote after managing only 12 games. He took over the Brewers on an interim basis when Ned Yost was fired in September and went 7-5 down the stretch to help Milwaukee secure its first playoff berth since 1982.

After the season, the Brewers hired Ken Macha to be their new manager. Sveum will return as hitting coach.

Tampa Bay, which started play in 1998, had never won more than 70 games in a season before Maddon engineered an incredible turnaround. With his motivational quotes and phrases, the 54-year-old skipper led a young team that finished in last place a season ago (66-96) to a 97-65 record and the AL East title.

"The toughest part is to absorb the body blows on a consistent basis. I knew what we were doing was right," Maddon said. "We knew we were better, we just didn't know how much better. During the season we found out we could do this, and people started to believe."

Maddon used his versatile bench brilliantly and juggled a much-improved bullpen that lost veteran closer Troy Percival to injury. The stunning success continued in October, when the Rays beat the Chicago White Sox and defending champion Boston Red Sox in the playoffs to capture the AL pennant.

Tampa Bay's run ended with a five-game loss to Philadelphia in the World Series.

"It was all there for us. It was just a matter of time," Maddon said. "It happened a little sooner than I thought."

While Manuel guided the Phillies to their second championship, Piniella and his Cubs (97-64) were swept in the first round of the playoffs for the second consecutive year. Their three-game loss to the Dodgers was a major disappointment for a franchise still seeking its first World Series title since 1908.

Voting for BBWAA awards is conducted before the postseason.

"Time heals a broken heart, I guess," Piniella said. "Looking back, these kids I think tried a little too hard."

There has never been a unanimous winner for Manager of the Year.

La Russa and Atlanta's Bobby Cox have each won the award four times, the only managers with more than Piniella. Dusty Baker and Jim Leyland also have three.

The BBWAA began presenting Manager of the Year awards in 1983.

Piniella became the fourth manager to win in both leagues, joining Cox, La Russa and Leyland. Previous winners from the Cubs were Jim Frey (1984) and Don Zimmer (1989).

A's acquire Holliday from Colorado

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Matt Holliday hardly could have expected to land with the low-budget Oakland Athletics.

The A's completed their trade with the Colorado Rockies for the star outfielder Wednesday, securing the big bat Oakland sought for the middle of its order.

"Originally, it was a little bit of a surprise considering I've never been traded before," Holliday said. "I spent my first 11 years of professional baseball in the Rockies organization. Any time you make a change there's a bit of an unknown."

Colorado received right-handed reliever Huston Street, lefty starter Greg Smith and promising outfielder Carlos Gonzalez from the A's. The clubs reached a tentative agreement Monday, but had to wait for the results of physicals and other details to be worked out.

Rockies general manager Dan O'Dowd said the Rockies earlier this year offered Holliday a deal worth $107.5 million over five seasons, but agent Scott Boras rejected it back in March.

"This wasn't going to go away. It was going to be a distraction," O'Dowd said. "And that's nothing against Mattie. He's earned the right to be a free agent after next season, and he's earned the right to pick where he plays after next season. There's no hard feelings, no animosity."

Oakland GM Billy Beane and O'Dowd speak regularly and had discussed Holliday since just after the season ended.

"We landed one of the biggest hitters out there," A's manager Bob Geren said. "He's definitely a piece of the offense you can build around."

This is a major move by an A's team that began rebuilding last winter and is more accustomed to losing star players than acquiring them.

"We wanted a right-handed bat, and we got one," Oakland outfielder Jack Cust said. "It's usually the other way around—giving away a bigger-name guy for guys who aren't as established. It's definitely exciting going into the season."

A two-time All-Star and runner-up for the 2007 NL MVP award, Holliday is due to make $13.5 million next season. Whether he stays in Oakland past the 2009 season or even next year's All-Star break, nobody knows.

"I'm not worried about that. Oakland wanted me for a reason," Holliday said.

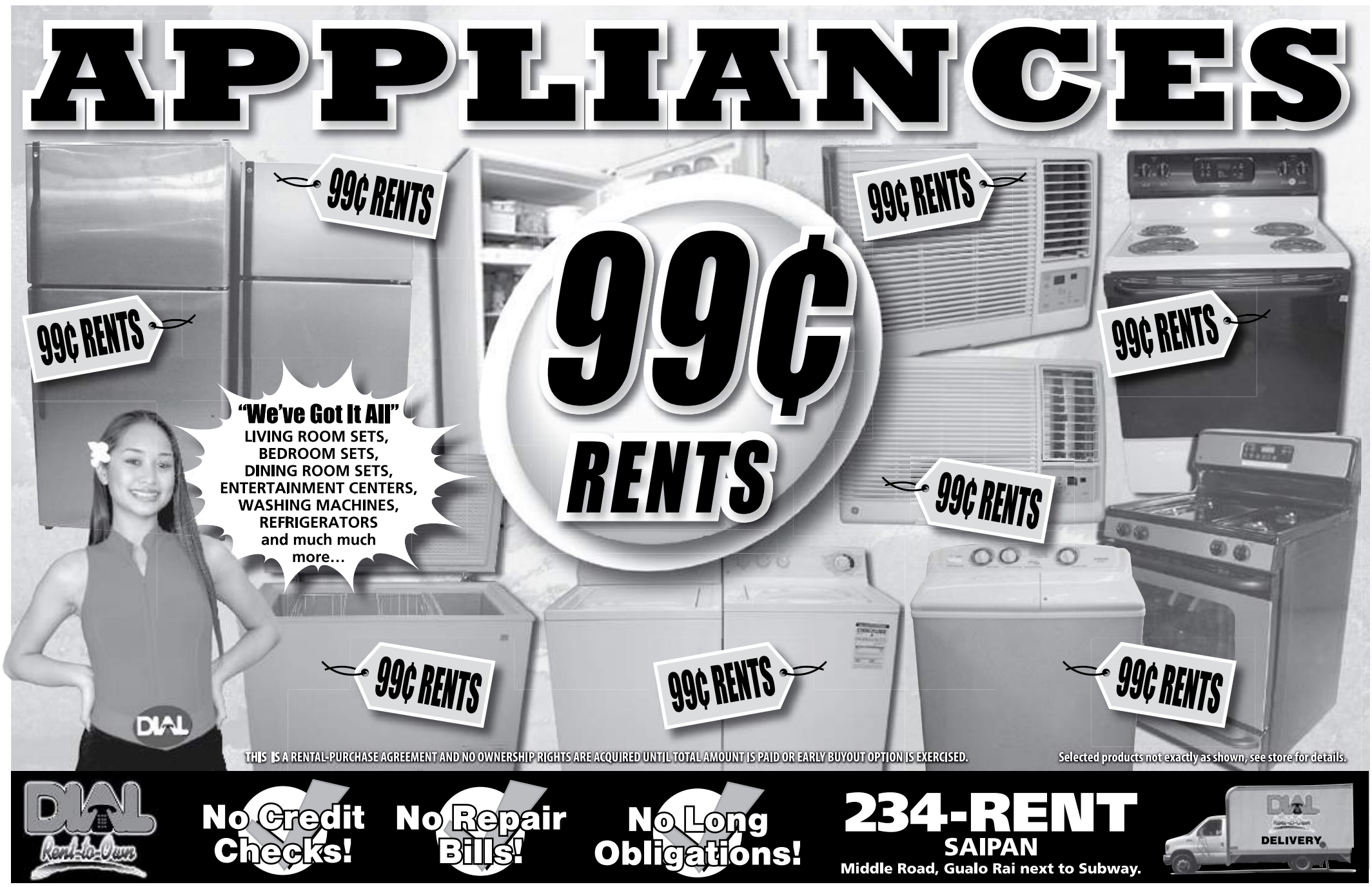
He has 128 homers and 483 RBIs in five big league seasons. His best year was 2007, when he won the NL batting title with a .340 average. He also had 36 homers and a league-best 137 RBIs in helping the Rockies reach the World Series. He finished second to Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins for NL MVP.

Beane said he's still focused on boosting the A's farm system from the bottom on up, and acquiring talented prospects only helps to pull off deals like this one. He's unsure whether Oakland will be able to keep Holliday long-term.

"I'm not Pollyannaish enough to believe you acquire one player and go from 75 to 95 wins," Beane said. "We'll focus on the whole year. Matt's a premium player. I guess we'll sort of cross that bridge when we get to it."

Geren spoke to Holliday by phone just after the deal became official.

"He is going to help us tremendously," Geren said. "We all know the kind of talent he has with his numbers, but I talked to him and you can tell the kind of person he is. It's a great fit."



DCCA grounds Jets, DEQ, POI win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs won the battle of unbeaten teams, breezing past the Joeten Motors Jets, 17-7, in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/ Business Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

With the victory, DCCA improved its record to 3-0 to share the No. 1 spot with Freedom Air. The Jets dropped to a 2-1 slate for a share of third place with Law & Order.

The Beach Boys, Legislature, and Commonwealth Ports Authority are tied for second with identical 2-0 records.

Pitcher Mel Sakisat was perfect at the plate, going 3-for-3 and making three RBIs. Outfielder Pitter Camacho and leftfielder James Fleming went 2-for-3, while three players hit 2-for-4, including rightfielder Jun Saralu. Saralu scored three RBIs making a two-run single in the fifth inning.

DCCA went 21-for-40 at the plate for a batting average of .487.

The defending champion was leading by only two, 9-7, after five complete innings when it shut out the Jets in the last two for a 10-run triumph.

DCCA scored several runs on the Jets errors. Sakisat, who pitched in no relief for the defending champion, allowed only two hits in the last two innings while DCCA's outfielders hustled for the ball to hand the Jets their first loss in this season.

In other results, POI and DEQ/CRM broke into the win column in the men's division.

DEQ/CRM nipped Pacific Islands Club, 20-13, in six and a half innings.

Extra hitter Jacob Lizama was the top performer for DEQ/CRM, going 4-for-4 at the plate, including a two-run homer at the bottom of the sixth.

Lizama's fellow extra hitter was also perfect at-bat, making 2-for-2 and scoring two runs, while centerfielder Ed Manibusan hit 4-for-5 nailing three runs.

Leading by only three, 12-9, after three and a half innings, a seven-run bottom of the fourth anchored by J.P. Flores' two-run single allowed DEQ/CRM to pull away, 19-9.

PIC never recovered from that point on, scoring only in the fifth and sixth inning.

DEQ/CRM claimed its first win in three games, while PIC dropped its third in as many matches.

In the last game of the night, POI topped Hopwood, 20-9.

Shortstop Gail Kaipat connected on a three-run homer at the top of the fourth inning and scored seven RBIs to put POI in the win column. Kaipat added three singles and made four runs.

Stephens cards score to beat for December Ace

Dwain Stephens came away with the best score in the December qualifier of the Refaluwasch Golf Association held last Saturday in conjunction with the club's Inaugural Memorial Classic.

Stephens shot a net 71, which was higher than John Rebuenog's 64, July Ace Manny Mangarero's 68, and Rey Tigilao and Bae Yong Man's 69.

He, however, recorded the score to beat in Nov. 22's December Ace because Mangarero (July) and Man (November) are previous winners and Rebuenog and Tigilao have not played the requisite number of rounds to advance to the Club Championship.

Ace of the Month winners need to play a minimum of four tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship set on Dec. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The Club Championship assembles all 12 monthly champions, provided they qualify.

For more information about RGA and the rest of its events in the 2008 calendar, contact tournament director Jess Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926.

In related news, Wabol thanked the sponsors of the Memorial Classic for extending their support in the inaugural competition, namely Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club, Aqua Resort Club, LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Saipan Stevedore Co., All-Stars Sporting Goods, Hyatt Regency Saipan, I-Connect, Palms Resort Saipan, Kingfisher Golf Links, Nippon General Trading Co., YCO Corp., Coral Ocean Point, Coco Restaurant, Saipan Grand Hotel, Dial Rent to Own, Coca-Cola, MARPAC, Pacific Trading Co., Saipan Shipping Co., YUNA Golf Range, DFS Galleria, First Hawaiian Bank, Café at the Park Gold's Gym, Kautz Glass, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, Rep. Edward T. Salas, Rep. Raymond Palacios, Reo. Ralph DLG Torres, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, Rep, Joseph N. Camacho, Sen. Luis P. Crisostomo, Ben Jones and family, Kae Poong Co., Delta Management Corp. Radiocom, PL's Water Company, Marianas Health Services, Juan L. Babauta and family, Advance Terminators, Western Union, New Fresh Market, Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, Speaker Arnold Palacios, Rep. Frank Dela Cruz, Marianas Resort & Spa, Asiana Airlines, and Pacific Quick Printing. ***(Mark Rabago)***

KNIGHTS

From Page 36

minute left in the game.

Feria and Chan repeated the same play after a MCS miss, but this time the former missed. The Knights got the rebound and Kim sprinted to their frontcourt, but muffed his layup.

The Dolphins collared the rebound and it was their turn to go for a fastbreak play, but Aaron Liberito's layup was blocked by the backboard.

The Knights secured the offensive rebound and had Baka running coast to coast and side-stepping against Chan, who stood his ground hoping to get an offensive foul. But Baka wisely moved from left to right for a banked shot to tie the game at 57-all, with 28 seconds on the clock.

Another MHS miss brought the ball back to Mt. Carmel, who had a chance to grab the lead when Kim was fouled by Jack Crisostomo on his way to the basket.

Kim's first charity was too strong, but the second hit nothing but the bottom of the net giving the Knights a 58-57 lead, with 14.9 left in the game.

Feria had the opportunity to bring MHS back in front when he drove to the middle and was fouled by Henry Han. It was a bad foul for the Knights, as they only had three fouls prior to Feria's attempt and could have given up a foul while the Dolphins were not in the act of shooting.

Han fouled out and Igitol replaced him.

Feria who went 0-for-2 in his previous trip to the free-throw area, missed both charities, anew. His second attempt was too strong forcing rebounders to scramble for the long rebound.

Brandon Aurelio picked up the ball near their bench and drove to the baseline. But Igitol stuck to him and Aurelio lost the ball.

MHS made another error when Feria fouled Baka away from the play as the two tried to position themselves for the inbound play.

Baka trooped to the foul line, missed the first, but made the second one, giving MCS a two-point lead, 59-57, with 3.1 seconds left in the game.

Liberito pulled up for the final shot, but his 3-point attempt was partially blocked by Igitol as time expired.

MCS 59—Kim 17, B. Baka 15, Salas 8, Igitol 6, Yoon 5, Sanchez 2, G. Baka 2, Han 2, Babauta 2.

MHS 57—Feria 20, Manalili 10, Chan 7, Hidalgo 6, Deleon Guerrero 6, Sarmiento 2, Liberito.

Scoring by quarters: 11-12, 25-all, 40-43, 59-57.

NMBF

From Page 36

made up of Riza Cano, Alfred Acosta, Ingrid Sanchez, Elma Labuson, Mario Diola, Victor Regis, June Padua, and skippered by Roger Vales.

Edwin Montoya spearheads the Green team and his players are Lupe Sabino, Roding Domingo, Christy Villaflor, Lea Estinopo, Gerry Balarao, Jojo Savellano, and Debra Fisher.

Constituting the Yellow team, headed up by Eric Pena, are Puy Macario, Merlie Tolentino, Marilyn Montano, Emily Vargas, Aries Montano, Arnel Bansagale, and Camille Samonte.

Calindas himself will captain the Orange team and his players are Irene Santiago, Louie Cielo, Babes Cielo, Ana Rose Omori, Gary Bandoja, Daniel Macario, and Dorie Pineda.

Lito Mendoza will lead the Gray team that is composed of Annette Ta, Marvin Pullan, Janis Parcon, Loida Ito, Saul Gargallo, Obet Aguilar, and Lani Bartolome.

The Red team will have Hapi Gabriel at the helm and he will have Malou Mendoza, Louis Camacho, Ana Alvarez, Malou Malasarte, Sherwin Samson, June Pineda, and Gigi Zapanta helping him.

The White team, made up of Elna Curate, Andrew Galvez, Marlene Peraja, Lucelle Lampera, Robert Reyes, Paul Navarro, and Ariel Mariano, will then look up to captain McCoi Aguda for leadership.

The Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament will be played Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Calindas said three companies and individuals have already signed on as minor sponsors of the annual badminton-fest, which has Traders Insurance serving as its main sponsor.

"We would like to thank minor sponsors such as Jerry Tan, PTI, and Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe. We are still looking for more minor sponsors to help us out in the event," he said.

For more information on the upcoming tournament, contact membership committee head Hapi Gabriel at 287-4274.

C&R/NRG

From Page 36

of Rodney Catalla, Mendoza, and Leo Factor to cut the lead to five, 100-95, with less than 40 seconds left on the clock.

After Mendoza's triple, C&R inbounded the ball despite Aon's pressure defense at the backcourt, the former was able to bring the ball to the frontcourt. Cruz received the pass, threw the ball to Jun Estolas, who saw Villacrusis running toward the left baseline. Villacrusis stopped, received the ball and connected on a short jumper.

Aon failed to score in the ensuing play, while Badong Camacho spit his charities to peg the final score.

C&R finished the regular season with a 3-3 record, tying Aon Insurance and Diamond Auto Care. But C&R won the tiebreak and will be ranked third behind Century Insurance (5-1) and MIGS (5-1) going into the playoffs.

C&R had three players scoring 20-point plus points with Cruz leading the way with 26 points. Estolas and Villacrusis chipped in 23 and 22 markers, respectively.

Mendoza paced Aon with 26 points, making five triples.

C&R/NRG 103—Cruz 26, Estolas 23, Villacrusis 22, Artates 13, Camacho 11, Capalad 5, Dayrit 2.

Aon Insurance 98—Mendoza 26, Factor 22, Lim 16, Catalla 13, Apelo 10, Eclevia 8, Abuy 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-25, 50-48, 82-74, 103-98.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	1	.889	–
New York	5	3	.625	2 1/2
Toronto	4	4	.500	3 1/2
Philadelphia	3	5	.375	4 1/2
New Jersey	2	5	.286	5

Southeast Division

Atlanta	6	1	.857	–
Orlando	5	3	.625	1 1/2
Miami	4	4	.500	2 1/2
Charlotte	2	5	.286	4
Washington	1	5	.167	4 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	6	2	.750	–
Detroit	5	2	.714	1/2
Indiana	4	3	.571	1 1/2
Milwaukee	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Chicago	3	5	.375	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	5	3	.625	–
New Orleans	4	3	.571	1/2
Memphis	3	6	.333	2 1/2
Dallas	2	5	.286	2 1/2
San Antonio	2	5	.286	2 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	6	2	.750	–
Portland	5	3	.625	1
Denver	4	3	.571	1 1/2
Minnesota	1	6	.143	4 1/2
Oklahoma City	1	7	.125	5

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	7	0	1.000	–
Phoenix	6	3	.667	2
Sacramento	4	5	.444	4
Golden State	3	5	.375	4 1/2
L.A. Clippers	1	7	.125	6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 106, Toronto 96
Indiana 98, New Jersey 87
Boston 103, Atlanta 102
Washington 95, Utah 87
New York 132, Memphis 103
Orlando 109, Oklahoma City 92
Milwaukee 82, San Antonio 78
L.A. Lakers 93, New Orleans 86
Portland 104, Miami 96
Houston 94, Phoenix 82
Sacramento 103, L.A. Clippers 98

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

Freedom Air	3	0
DCCA	3	0
Legislature	2	0
Beach Boys	2	0
CPA	2	0
Law & Order	2	1
Joeten Motors	2	1
DLNR	1	1
P & S	1	1
Saipan Cell	1	1
No Zone	1	1
CHC	1	1
PSS	1	2
CUC	1	2
DEQ/CRM	1	2
POI	1	2
PIC	0	3
Customs	0	2
Mayors	0	2
Hopwood	0	3

Women's Division

NMC	2	0
DCCA	2	1
Finance	1	2
CUC	0	1
CHC	0	1

RM-pilcowa11-14

PILCOWA STANDINGS

Century Insurance	5	1
MIGS	5	1
C&R/NRG	3	3
Diamond Auto Care	3	3
Aon Insurance	3	3
Olivos/Reliance Const.	1	4
San Miguel Light	0	5

MISO CAGING STANDINGS

SSHS	3	0
MHS	2	2
KHS	1	2
MCS	1	3

All Schools cross country draws more than 50 runners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune
REPORTER

The second leg of the 2008 All Schools Cross Country Championships was a smash hit with more than 50 runners attending the event along Airport Road.

The second warm-up run for the All Schools meet drew runners from Saipan International School, Whispering Palms, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Hopwood Junior High School, Saipan Community School, and Saipan Southern High School.

Students runners were divided into five age groups, namely the boys and girls' 8-and-under, 10-and-under, 12-and-under, 14-and-under, and 18-and-under. Participants in the 10-and-under and 12-and-under age groups ran 1,500m, while the two other older age group raced in 5,000m.

In the boys' 8-and-under division, Andrew Hudkins of SIS posted nine minutes, 25 seconds to finish ahead of teammate Jae Song Park's time of 9:34 in the first leg.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Marianas Athletics official Elias Rangamar, left, explains to participants the course in the 1,500m race during the first leg of the NMA All Schools Cross Country Series at the Airport Road late last month.

In the girls' 10-and-under, first leg winner Gabrielle Race of Whispering Palms is still on top with her 7:28, as second leg participants Amber Patillo and Adele Hudkins of SIS posted 9:20 and 10:58, respectively. SIS's Emily Jones is in third with 10:19.

Other Top 3 finishers in their respective division after two legs were brothers John (6:40) and Daniel Auther (7:02) of Whispering Palms and SIS's Elnathan Wong (8:06) in the boys' 10-and-under.

The girls and boys' 12-and-under's Top 3 placers were SCS's Han Mil Oh (7:56), Lydin Johnson (8:39) and Xian Jun Lu (9:00); Angelo Jones (6:23) of SIS and Peter Mendiola (15:24) and Soon Hyung Kwon (16:17).

In the girls and boys' 14-and-under division, completing the Top 3 were Hopwood's Esther Williams (16:00), Jeralyn Castillo (17:32), and Victoria Reves (26:00); Hopwood's John Cenir (15:25) and Tony Bai (15:26) and SCS's Justin Poon (15:27).

Lina Manalili of MHS was the lone participant in the girls' 18-and-under and timed in at 17:47.

MHS had a 1-2 finish in the boys' 18-and-under with Champ Untalan clocking in at 12:43.01 and Matt Mancao timing in at 12:43.02. Southern's Lawrence Echon finished third with a time of 13:32.

Meanwhile, the All Schools championship will be held tomorrow with races beginning at 6:30am at the Airport Field.

The Top 3 placers in each age group will receive medals, while trophies will be awarded to the Top 3 schools.

A school will qualify in the team awards if it fields at least five runners in the races. Points will be awarded to each runner to determine the rankings of schools. The first finisher will get a point, two for second, three for third, four for fourth, five for fifth, and so on. The school with the lowest points wins the division. In case of a tie, the school with a sixth finisher wins the tiebreak.

For more information on the cross country series, contact Elias Rangamar at 664-2502.

Chin edged Hocog to win November Ace

Chin Lin Wang nipped Matilde Hocog in a scorecard tiebreak to win the CNMI Women's Golf Association November Ace of the Month Tournament held last Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Chin and Hocog came away with the day's best net score of 74, but the former recorded a lower gross score of 87 built around the 13-handicapper's 44 in the front nine and 43 in the back nine score.

Hocog, for her part, carded a gross score of 82 based on her 49-44 performance in the first and final nine holes.

Chang Eun Ae came in third with a net 75, while Jeong Yi Su and Kyung Ran Seo finished with identical scores of 76 to complete the Top 5.

A total of 19 players took part in CWGA's November Ace last weekend. The rest of the players, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Noriko Togawa (77); Shiori Onoue (77); Terry Tudela (77); Masayo Miyamoto (78); Dolores Yamagishi (78); Bennet Seman (79); Adachi Sachiko (81); Lou Kim (81); Yuko Togawa (83); Lorraine Babauta (84); Margaret Tenorio (87); and guest player Min Hua Yoon (gross 97).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Women's Golf Association held its November Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(Mark Rabago)***

SGA November Ace at COP this Sunday

The Saipan Golf Association will be holding its November Ace Tournament at the Coral Ocean Point course this Sunday.

Tee time is at 9am, while show time is set for 8am.

The November Ace is one of the three tournaments left in the SGA calendar of events for 2008. Actually, the weekend tournament will be SGA's 2008 Annual Turkey Shootout, but the SGA member with the lowest net score gets to take the monthly plum.

Members/players present at the award ceremony will receive turkeys, regardless of their performance in the two tournaments.

Entrance fee is $35 for the two events.

After the Sunday's tournament, SGA will be holding the December ace of the month event on Nov. 30 with the winner claiming the December ace title and earning the last ticket to the Ace of the Aces Tournament. The last monthly event will be held at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Tee and show time will be announced later

The Ace of the Aces Tournament, which is SGA's club championship, will be played in two rounds. The first round will be held on Dec. 13 at the Kingfisher Golf Links, while the second round will take place at COP on Dec. 14.

So far, qualifiers for the Ace of Aces Tournament include Mariano Fajardo, Joe Sablan, Ned Norita, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Carl Hocog, Edward Manibusan, Nobert Sablan, Ron Hodges, Art Deleon Guerrero, and Steve Balakrishna.

Monthly winners and the Ace of the Aces champion will receive their trophies during the awards banquet/SGA Christmas Party on Dec. 19 at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

The party will run from 6pm to 11pm.

For more information, contact SGA president Martin Sablan at 483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052, or tournament coordinator Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament this weekend

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Members of Shell Marianas pose with family members while proudly showing off their trophies after winning the lone ticket for the trip to Palau in the 2008 Budweiser King of the Diamonds last month at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The "King of Beers" is proud to sponsor the King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament to be held on Palau at Airai Field this coming weekend, Nov. 14 and 15.

Four teams will compete in the two-day round-robin tournament—Saipan's Shell Marianas, Guam's Da Boyz, and Palau's Meyuns and Oldiais.

Shell Marianas, formerly No Ka Oi, has been the reigning champion of the all-Micronesian softball tournament for the past three years.

Teams from Saipan and Guam will receive an all-expense paid trip to Palau compliments of Budweiser to compete in the King and Queen of the Diamonds tournament.

"Budweiser and Shimbros are proud to sponsor this annual softball tournament in Palau. Every year, the spirit of the game is wonderful, the competition is fun and the teamwork is terrific to watch. We would like to thank all our organizers, volunteers, players and our major sponsor, Airai View Hotel and Continental Micronesia, for helping make this year's tournament a success," said Ambros Inc. general manager Tom Shimizu.

An exciting part of the tournament is the Home Run Derby where each of the teams are allowed to enter two contestants to see who could hit the most home runs before getting five outs.

The winner will receive $200 cash. At the end of the games, Budweiser will host an awards banquet on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Airai View Hotel.

For their R&R the next day, Nov. 16, all four teams will be treated to an all day Rock Island Tour, as no trip to Palau is complete without a visit to the pristine Rock Islands.

Budweiser supports softball as well as other sports on Guam, Saipan, and Palau. For additional information on Budweiser's sports programs and sponsorships, visit www.Budweiser.com.

Budweiser is one of the world's best-selling beers and is sold in more than 80 countries around the world through partnerships with international brewers or through independent distributors. Budweiser is imported and distributed locally by Ambros, Inc., Marpac Distributors, and Shimbros International.

As the best-selling beer on Guam, Saipan, and Palau, Budweiser is associated with high quality, tradition, integrity and, most importantly, responsibility—characteristics that have made it the "King of Beers." ***(PR)***

All Schools cross country draws more than 50 runners

The second leg of the 2008 All Schools Cross Country Championships was a smash hit with more than 50 runners. 35

Saipan Tribune
Sports

McGrady leads Rockets to win over Suns

Tracy McGrady snapped out of a slump to score 22 of his 27 points in the second half Wednesday night. 32

Knights snap skid in MISO caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School started the second round of the regular season of the 2008-2009 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League on a winning note, slipping past the Marianas High School, 59-57, Wednesday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Knights dropped all three games in the first round, including a humiliating 44-77 loss to the Dolphins. But the Knights came out more prepared in their rematch and pulled off an upset behind crucial baskets by Bela Baka and Ming Seung Kim and two defensive stops from Matt Igitol.

The Dolphins led for the last time, 57-55, after Nino Feria made an inside basket off a drop pass from Norman Chan, with less than a

See KNIGHTS on Page 34

Mt. Carmel's Bela Baka (15) dribbles out of MHS defenders during their game in the MISO caging Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

C&R/NRG regains form, tops Aon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

C&R/NRG ended its two-game losing skid, outclassing Aon Insurance at the continuation of their rain-suspended game, 103-98, in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Wednesday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

The C&R-Aon tiff was first played on Nov. 6, but the game was called off due to rain after the first quarter with the latter ahead by only a point, 25-24.

When the match resumed, C&R managed to seize control of the game in the third quarter leading by as much as 10 points, 78-68, before Aon tried to recover in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter and fell short.

A triple from Jolan Mendoza tied the game for the last time, 86-all, with less than five minutes left in the game.

But C&R launched a 10-1 bomb with Jericho Cruz making two layups, James Villacrus canning a triple, and Mel Capalad completing a 3-point play.

Just when C&R was breaking the game wide open, Aon made another comeback attempt behind the baskets

See C&R/NRG on Page 34

C&R/NRG's Jericho Cruz, right, loses his balance as he goes for a short and is fouled by Aon's Jon Lim during their game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Wednesday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMBF-Traders team tourney holds draft

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

With the Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament a couple of weeks away, organizer Northern Marianas Badminton Federation held a draft last Saturday to determine the makeup of the eight teams taking part in the competition.

NMBF president Marconi Calindas said that the eight participating teams will be known by their colors—Black, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Gray, Red, and White.

He said each of the teams will have their team captains who are Grade A players, while the rest of the squads will be composed of three Grade B women, one Grade B in men, and one to two Grade C for men and women.

"The drafting was held successfully and each team captain expressed excitement while drawing for members. The group is now excited for the tournament to kick off on Nov. 22," said Calindas.

The Black team will be led by captain Joseph Santos and his players will be Pauline Cielo, Keno San Pablo, Shirley Kim, Cheng Saturno, Alvin Alvarez, Ric Bue, and Angeline Ito.

The Blue team, meanwhile, will be

See NMBF on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The eight team captains of the upcoming Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament draw names of players during the competition's draft last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

'The Big Hit' still a go for Trench Tech IX: Annihilation

Fitial

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial remains in the fight card of Trench Tech IX: Annihilation despite his recent troubles, according to Trench Tech president and founder Cuki Alvarez.

"Kelvin has been confirmed to fight Trench Warz IX since two months ago and these alleged incidences are all popping up at once. At this point, since he is the semi main event fight, we still plan on allowing him to fight. We are going on the assumption that 'he is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law,'" he wrote in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Alvarez said a couple of weeks ago, Fitial was involved in an incident that led to the veteran MMA fighter and former national basketball player serving a 24-hour jail sentence for assault and disturbing the peace.

"Trench Tech does hand down suspensions to competitors who break the law, but mainly for felony offenses. We will wait and see what transpires these next few days and ultimately make a decision on his participation…we are playing the 'wait-and-see-what-happens' game at this point. For now, the fight card remains intact and no changes," added Alvarez.

It was also reported that Fitial has a four-year-old outstanding arrest warrant in California stemming from his burglary conviction in 2003.

In an earlier interview with Fitial's surrogate mother, Betty Miller said his son's arrest warrant is a matter that needs to be resolved between the California judge that approved Fitial's probation and his subsequent return to Saipan and the probation officer, who opposed the ruling and ultimately issued his warrant of arrest.

In Trench Tech IX: Annihilation, Fitial (12 wins, five loses, and two draws) of Marianas Elite will take on Team Zalaka's Ton "Xclaibur" Nekaifes (no wins, one loss) in a battle of super heavyweights.

It will be followed by the main event featuring Fitial's stable-mate Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas (six wins, one loss) and Thug Cop's Manny "The Enforcer" Chong (16 wins, six loses).

Ten other preliminary bouts are scheduled in Trench Tech IX: Annihilation set for Dec. 12 at the Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.